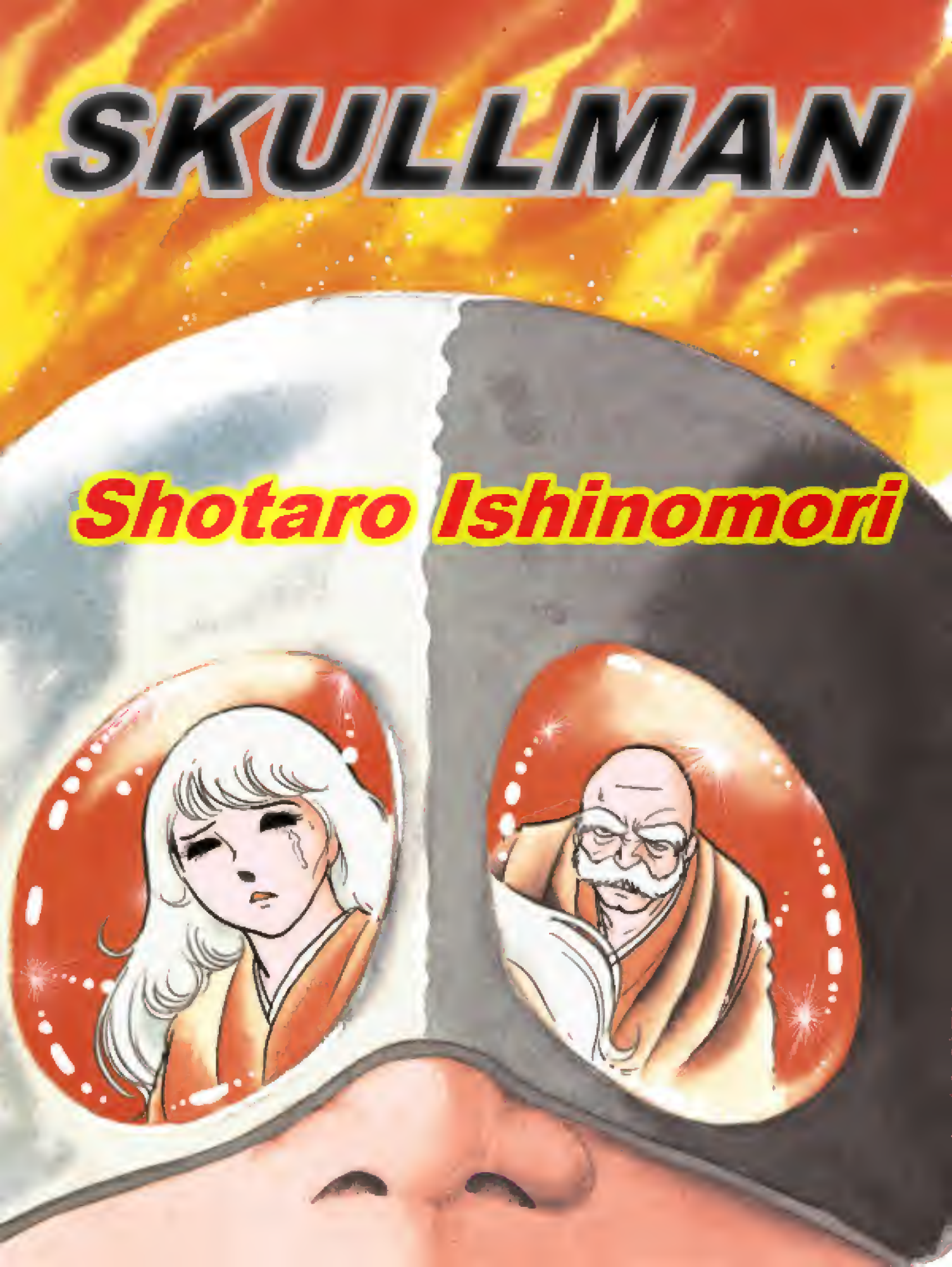
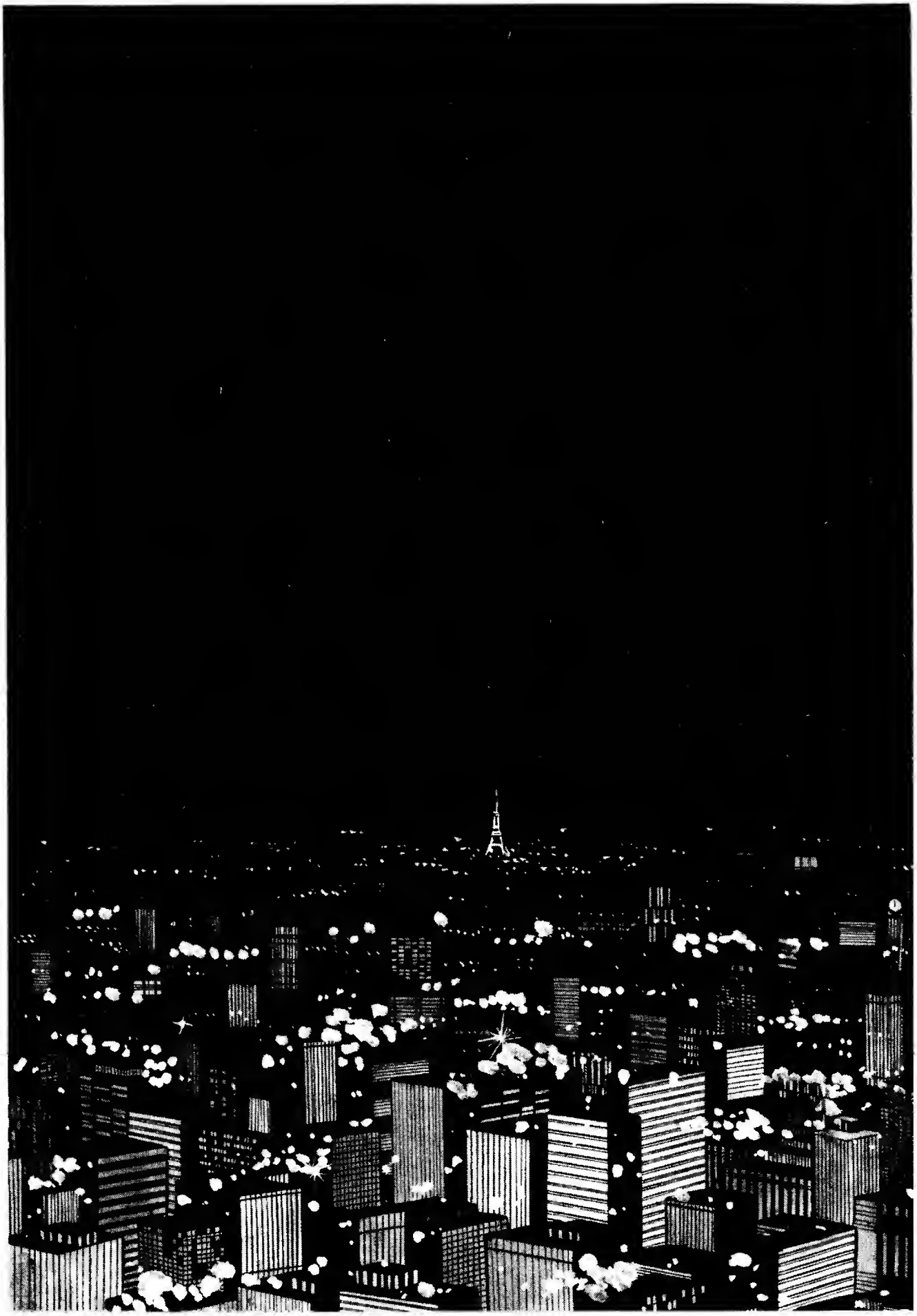
SKULLMAN

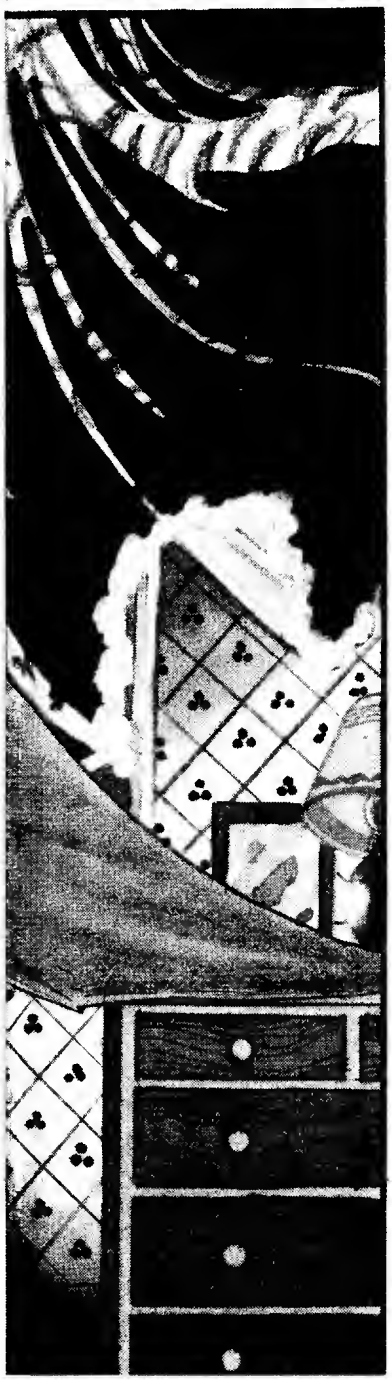
Shotaro Ishinomori

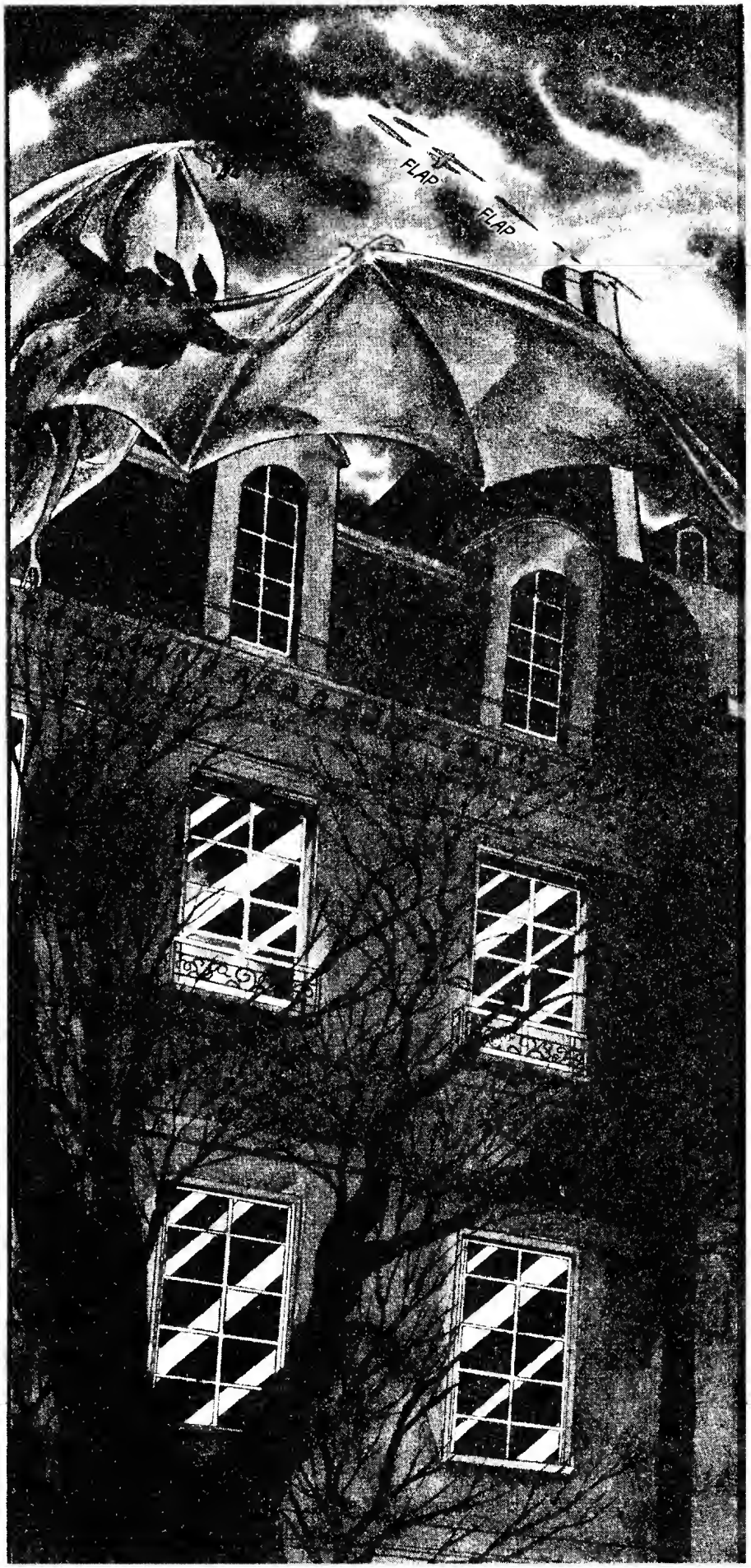


THE SKULL MAN

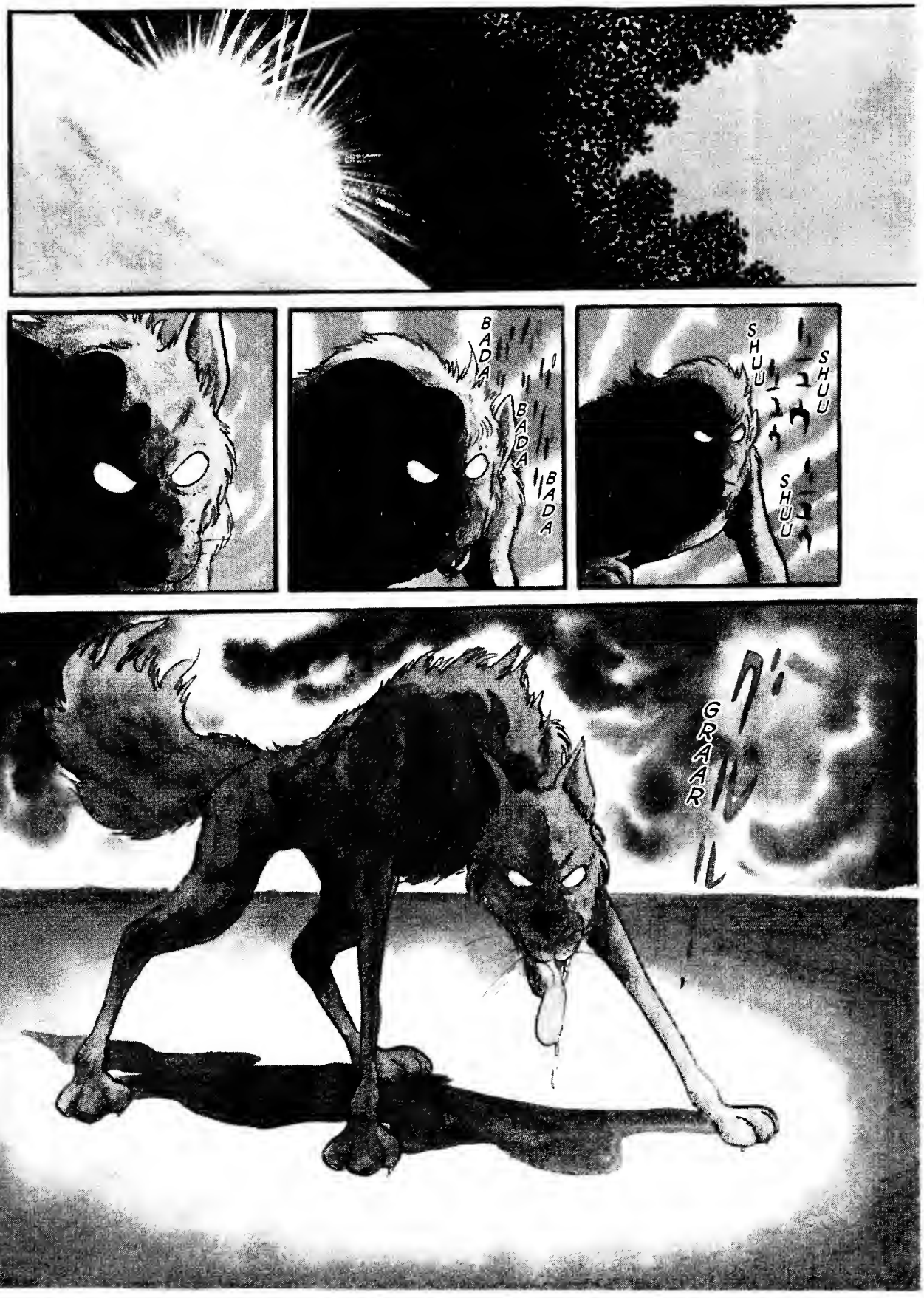


KOK
KOK



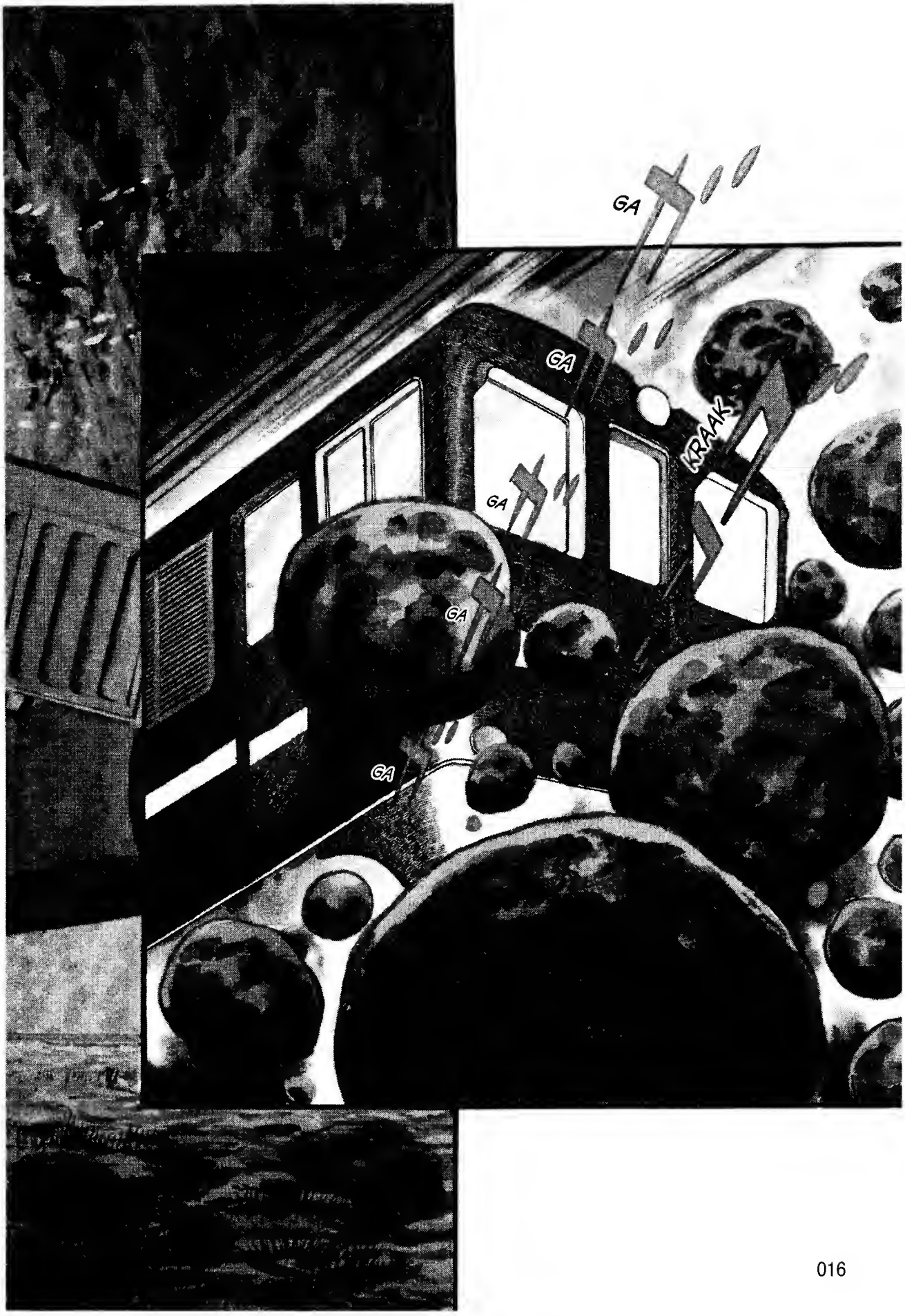

FLAP
FLAP

SKREE


BADA
BADA
BADA
SHUU
SHUU
SHUU
SHUU
GRAAR

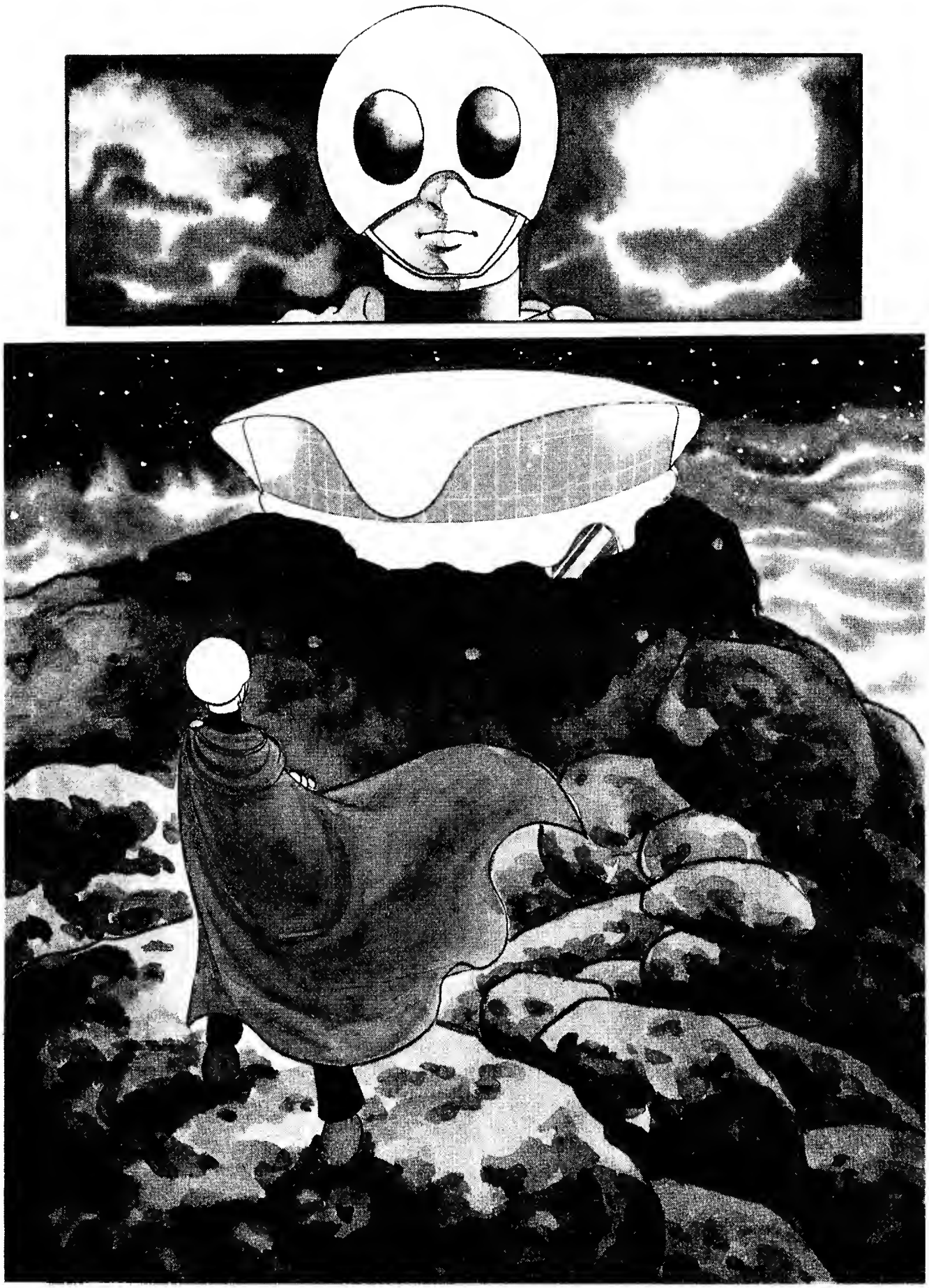
GROOWL
3025-

GA
GA
GAAK
VOOOM
HOOONK
RUMBLE

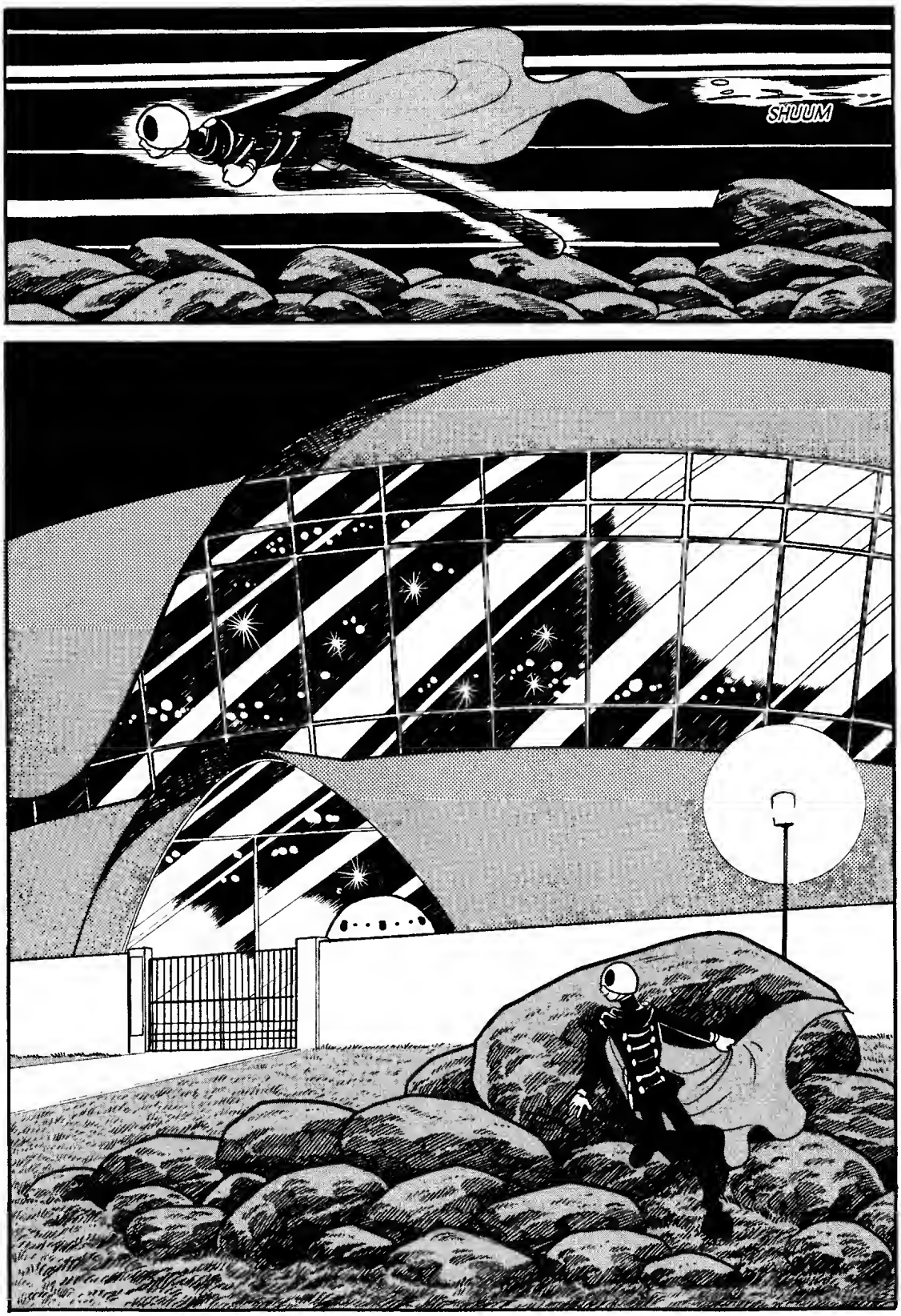

GA
GA
KRAAK
GA
GA
GA

BAA
BLAAM

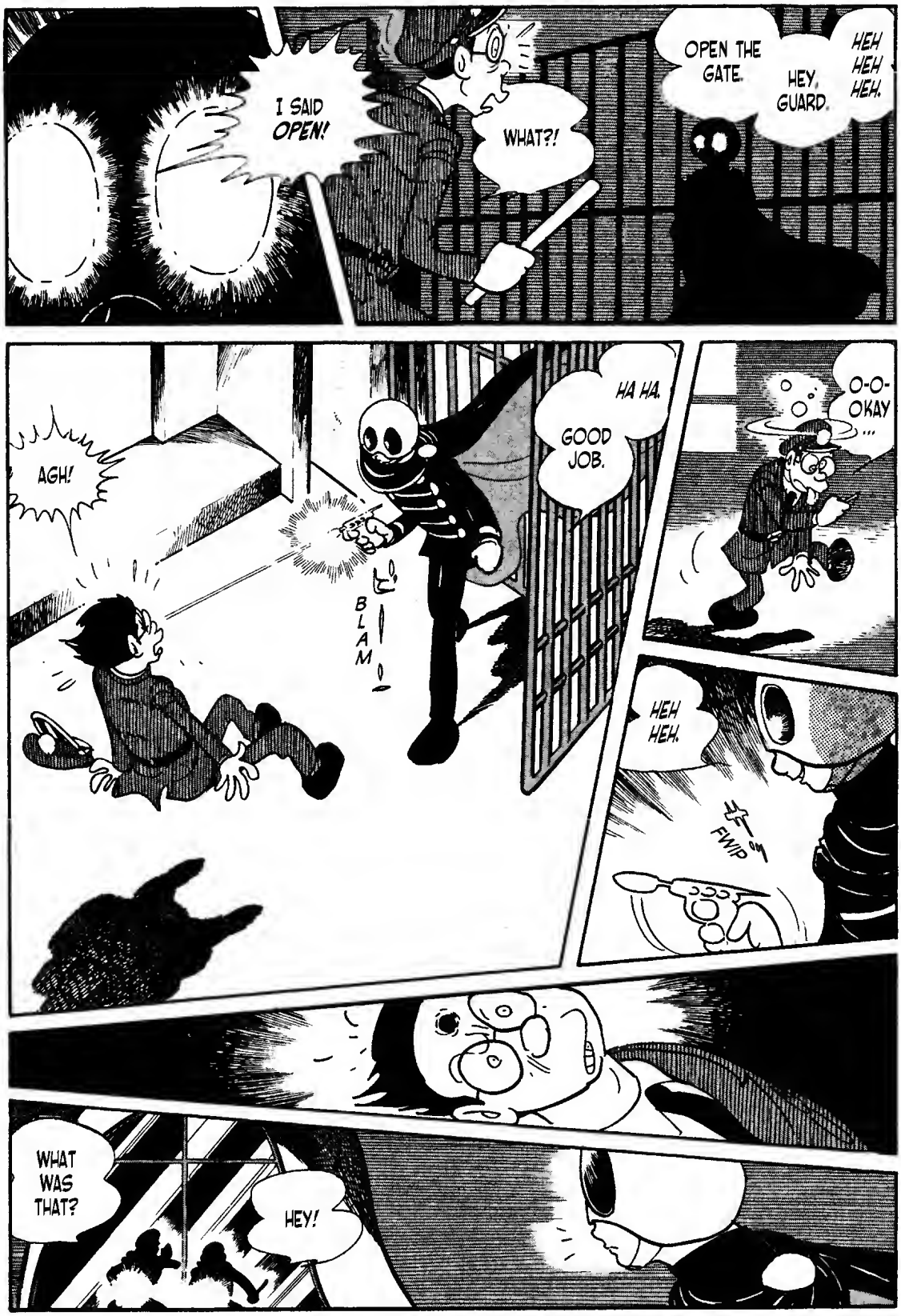
ズゴゴゴ
ドオオ
ゴオオオ
BOOOM



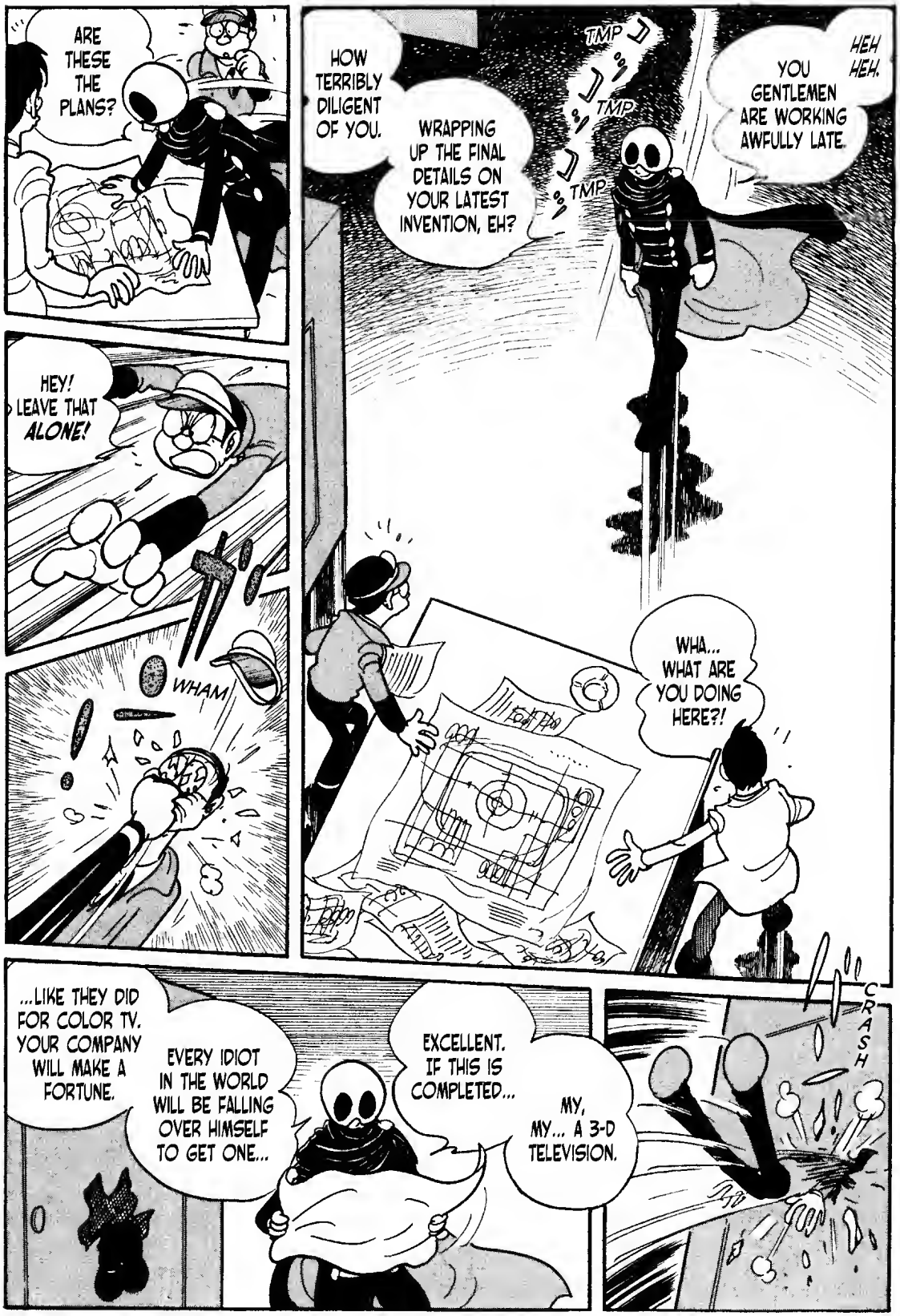
ORK
TMP
シューン
WSSH
THUP

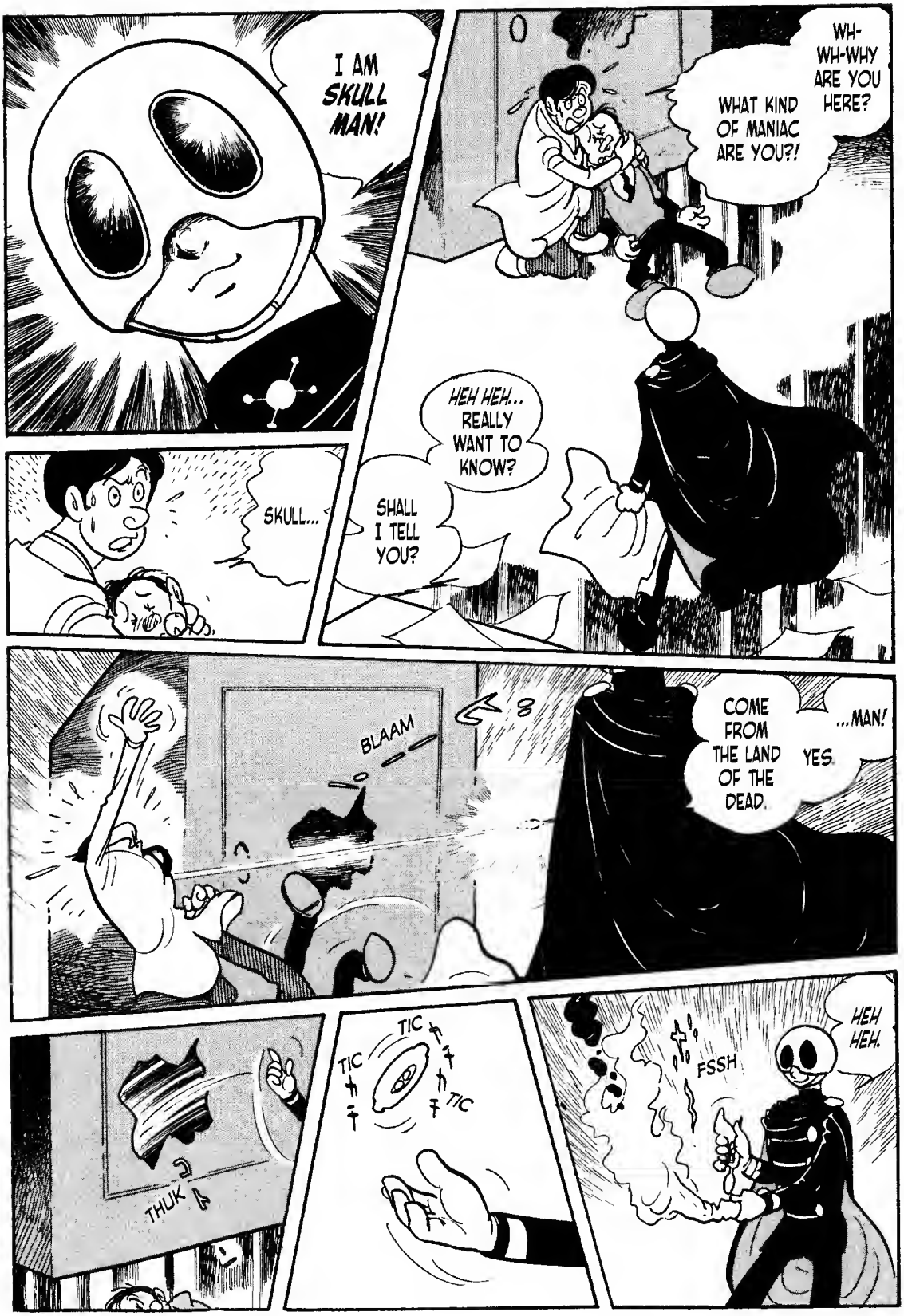

SHUUM

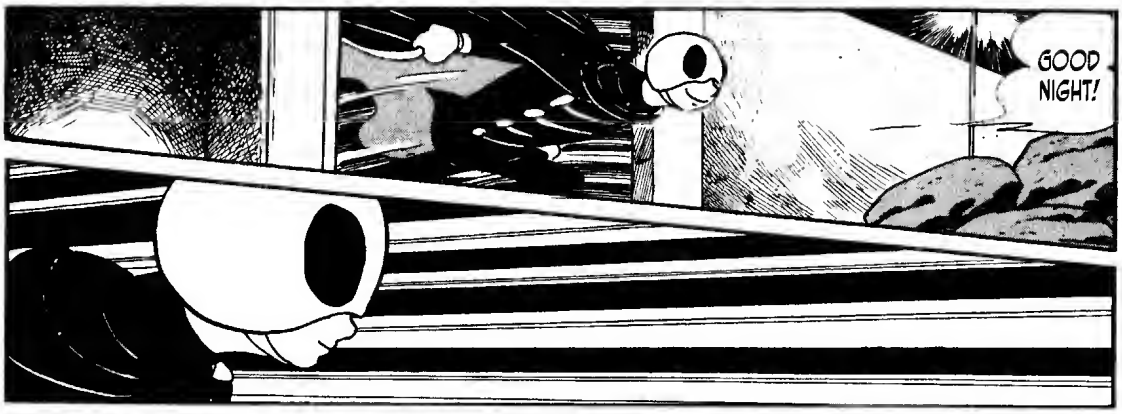
ZZZ
ZZZ
電子工業 研究所
PSS
PSS
PSS
PSS
CRAASH
On sign: Electric Generation Research Plant
W-W-WHAT...
WH-WHO'S THERE ?!
HUH?
WH-WHO ARE YOU?!


I SAID OPEN!
WHAT?!
OPEN THE GATE.
HEY, GUARD.
HEH HEH HEH.
AGH!
BLAM!
HA HA.
GOOD JOB.
O-O-OKAY...
HEH HEH.
FWIP
WHAT WAS THAT?
HEY!

BA
BLAM
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
KREE
CLINK
THANKS FOR THE KEYS.
HEH HEH.
CLANK
DIDN'T HE JUST MAKE HIS ROUNDS?
EH?
IS THE GUARD BACK?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
WH-WHO ARE YOU?
WHA ...?
SLAM


ARE THESE THE PLANS?
HEY! LEAVE THAT ALONE!
WHAM!
HOW TERRIBLY DILIGENT OF YOU.
WRAPPING UP THE FINAL DETAILS ON YOUR LATEST INVENTION, EH?
TMP
TMP
TMP
HEH HEH.
YOU GENTLEMEN ARE WORKING AWFULLY LATE.
WHA... WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
...LIKE THEY DID FOR COLOR TV. YOUR COMPANY WILL MAKE A FORTUNE.
EVERY IDIOT IN THE WORLD WILL BE FALLING OVER HIMSELF TO GET ONE...
EXCELLENT. IF THIS IS COMPLETED...
MY, MY... A 3-D TELEVISION.
CRASH


I AM SKULL MAN!
WH-WH-WHY ARE YOU HERE?
WHAT KIND OF MANIAC ARE YOU?!
HEH HEH... REALLY WANT TO KNOW?
SHALL I TELL YOU?
SKULL...
BLAAM
COME FROM THE LAND OF THE DEAD.
YES.
...MAN!
THUK
TIC
TIC
TIC
FSSH
HEH HEH.

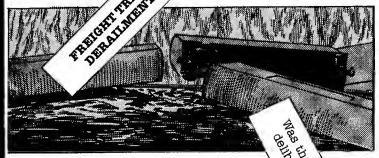

GOOD NIGHT!

HEH HEH HEH.
BWA HA HA.

BOOOM
BWA HA HA HA HA!!

POPULAR TV ACTRESS HANATO RYUKO MURDERED
Was this cruel, bizarre murder the act of a psychopath?

FREIGHT TRAIN DERAILMENT



Was the explosion a deliberate crime?

TRAFFIC ACCIDENT?
Secretary to government minister killed instantly in train wreck

FIRE AT MITSUGATA CORP. RESEARCH FACILITY

Four dead, one in critical condition

Accidental fire during experiment?

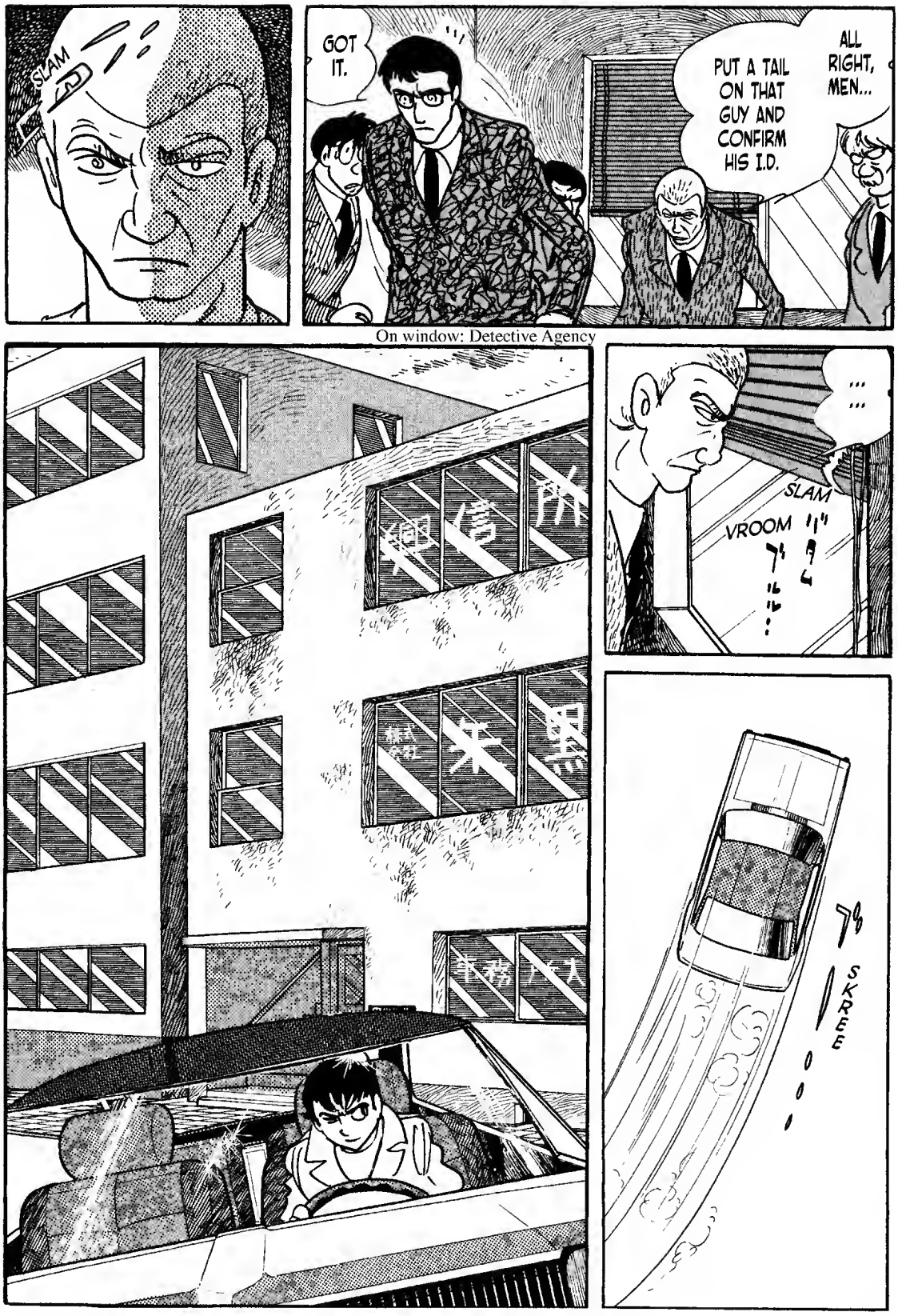
IT'S GOT TO BE HIM!
WHAP
IT'S HIM!
THE RESEARCH FACILITY.
THE FREIGHT TRAIN.
THE BUREAU-CRAT.
THE AC-TRESS.
...
...
BUT THERE'S ONE THING THAT CLEARLY TIES THEM ALL TOGETHER!
AT FIRST GLANCE, THEY SEEM UNCON-NECTED...
SKULL MAN, EH?
CHAK
THE ATTACKER IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS "SKULL MAN."
HE GAVE THE POLICE A FULL STATEMENT FROM HIS HOSPITAL BED.
ONE OF THE RESEARCHERS PLAYED DEAD AFTER HE GOT INJURED.

CH-CHIEF...
BAM
BAD NEWS!
WHAT?
WHAT HAPPENED?!
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
THE NAME SUITS HIM!
HE'S LIKE A TERRIFYING ENVOY FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE!
A MURDERING DEMON!
WE CAN'T ALLOW THIS MADMAN TO REMAIN ON THE LOOSE!
THERE'S NOT A SECOND TO SPARE! WE'VE GOT TO LOCATE THE BASTARD AND PUT AN END TO HIS GODFORSAKEN LIFE!
KNOCK
KNOCK
COME IN.
KU... KUSANO... HE'S...
AH!

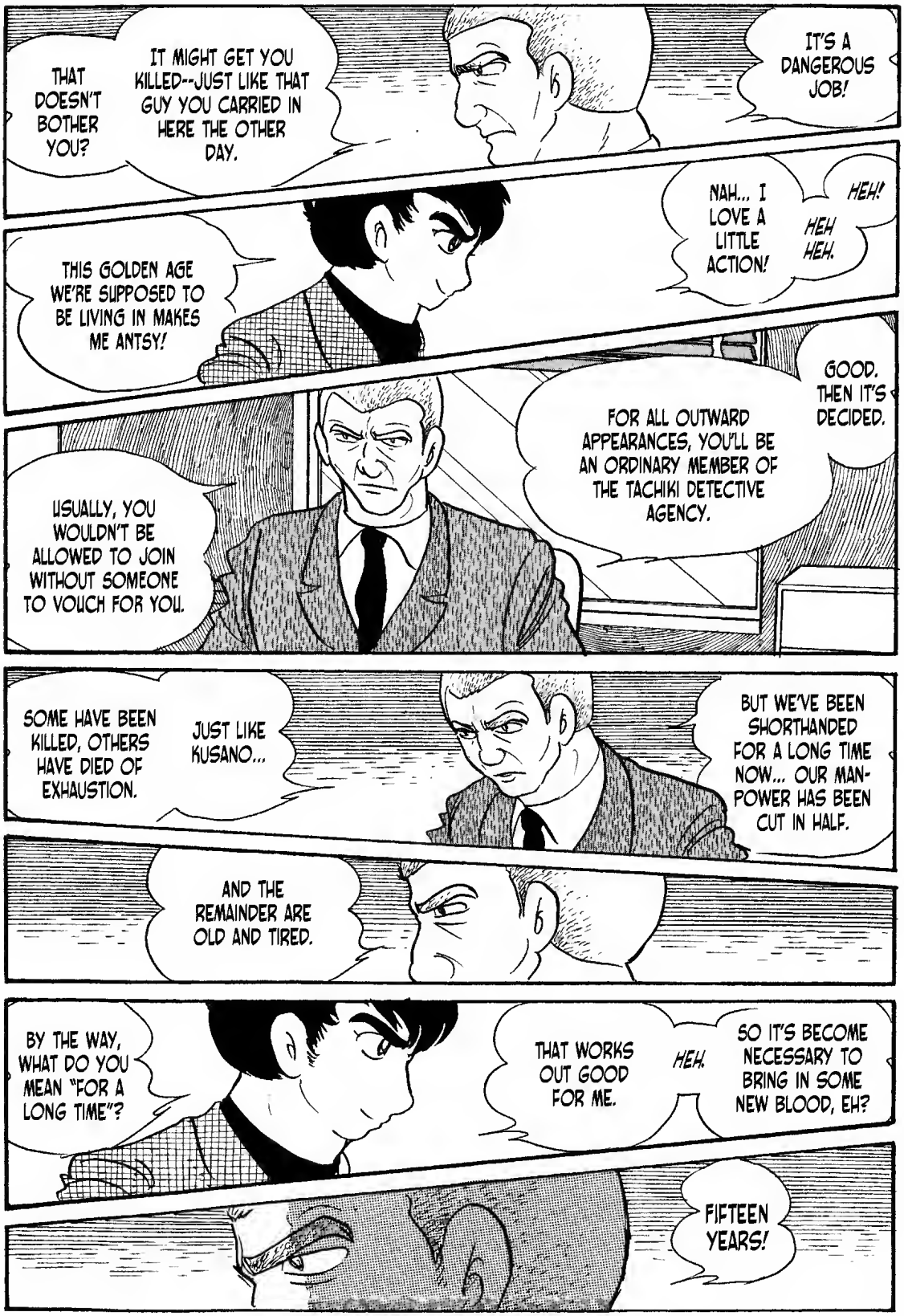
NOT THAT IT WOULD MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU.
KAGURA TATSUO.
KAGURA ?!
WH- WHAT?!
HE DIED IN THE CAR ON THE WAY HERE.
HE'S ALREADY DEAD!
WH- WHO ARE YOU?!
"HE"?
WHO IS THIS "HE"?
IT'S HIM AGAIN! HE DID THIS!
K-KUSANO'S THROAT... IT'S BEEN RIPPED OUT!
THIS... THIS WOUND!
GUESS I'LL HAVE TO MAKE A WITNESS REPORT TO THE POLICE.
WELL, I SUPPOSE YOU'VE GOT YOUR REASONS FOR KEEPING QUIET.
...
...

ONE OF YOUR MEN?
ONE OF MY MEN FOUND HIM IN THE STREET NEAR MY HOUSE AND BROUGHT HIM TO ME.
I DIDN'T FIND HIM.
WHERE DID YOU FIND THIS MAN?
WELL, YEAH.
I GUESS MY OLD MAN HAS MADE QUITE A NAME FOR US.
YOU MUST BE THE YOUNG BOSS OF THE KAGURA CLAN! YOU'RE YAKUZA!
THEN ...
WHOA! THE YAKUZA GANG THAT'S CONTROLLED THE ASAKUSA AREA FOR YEARS!
THE KAGURA CLAN!
KA-GURA!
I KNEW I HEARD THAT NAME BEFORE!
I SEE!
SMIRK
...SOMETHING ABOUT "HE GOT ME."
BEFORE HE DIED, HE WAS BABBLING SOMETHING...
BUT HE DIED IN THE CAR EN ROUTE.
WHEN I TRIED TO TAKE HIM TO A DOCTOR, HE INSISTED THAT I BRING HIM HERE.
YOUR MAN THERE... WHEN HE WAS CARRIED INTO MY HOUSE, HE WAS STILL ALIVE.

THESE DAYS, I'M BORED OUTTA MY SKULL!
SO HOW ABOUT IT? YOU GONNA CUT ME IN ON THE ACTION OR WHAT?
AND THAT'S THE SUM TOTAL OF WHAT I KNOW ABOUT "HIM."
NOBODY'S TWISTING YOUR ARM HERE, BUT WHATEVER YOU'RE CAUGHT UP IN, IT SOUNDS LIKE FUN!
HEH HEH.
!!
W-WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUNG PEOPLE THESE DAYS?!
TH-THIS ISN'T A GAME, YOU LITTLE PUNK!
B-BORED ?!
INSTEAD ...
NO NEED FOR THANKS.
ALLOW ME TO THANK YOU AGAIN FOR BRINGING KUSANO'S BODY HERE.
ALL RIGHT. IF WE COME UP WITH SOME USE FOR YOU, WE'LL CALL YOU.
... ...
CIAO.
会議室
I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOUR ENGRAVED INVITATION TO JOIN IN!

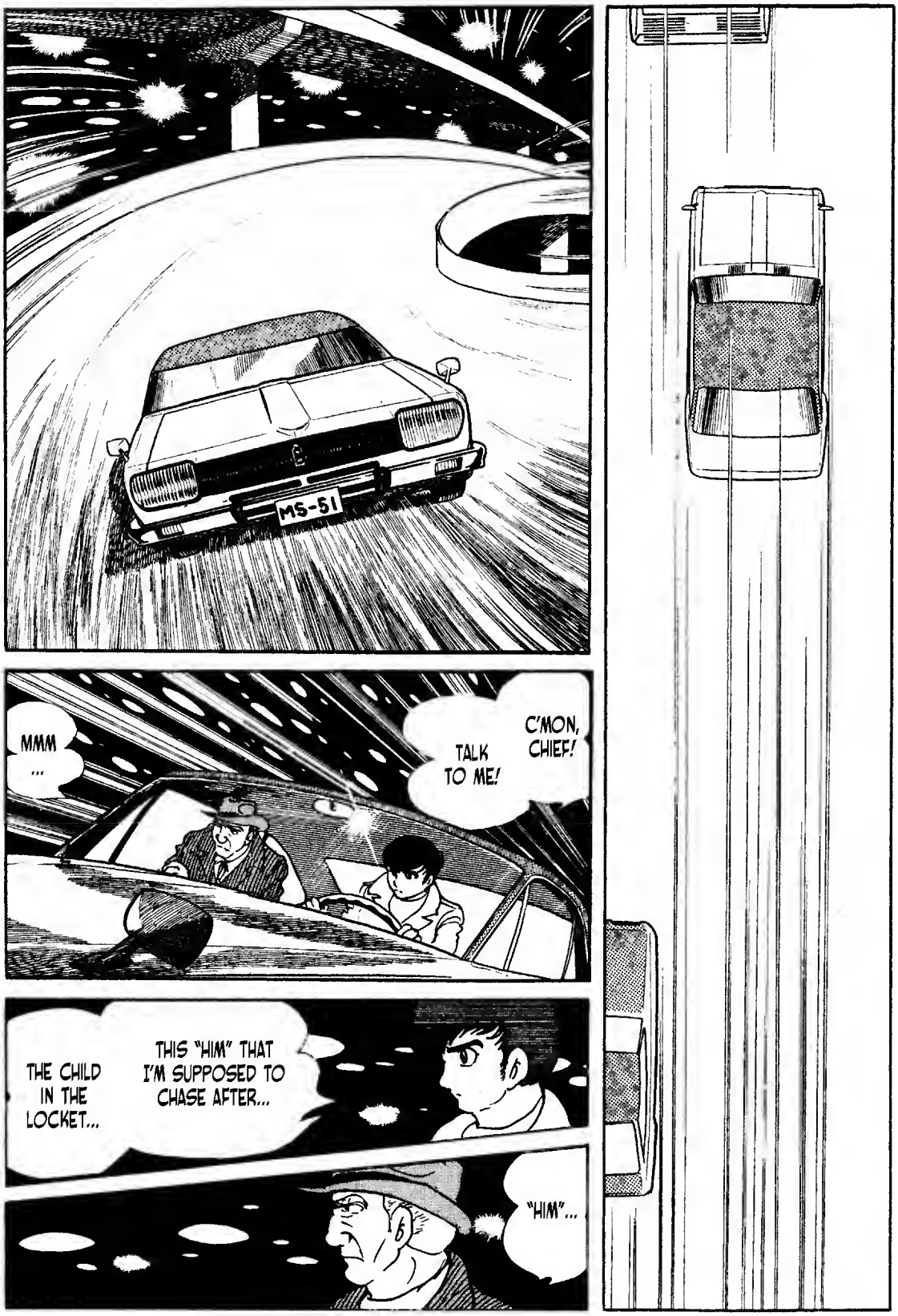

SLAM
GOT IT.
ALL RIGHT, MEN...
PUT A TAIL ON THAT GUY AND CONFIRM HIS I.D.
On window: Detective Agency
...
...
SLAM
VROOM
SKREE

探偵事務所
滝出井ビル
WE CHECKED YOUR BACK-GROUND...
...AND CONFIRMED THAT YOU'RE IN LINE TO INHERIT LEADERSHIP OF THE KAGURA CLAN.
THAT'S WHY I ASKED YOU TO COME!
AH!
CHECKING PEOPLE OUT IS WHAT YOU DO, ISN'T IT?
WE'VE GOT TO-- ON A PROJECT AS IMPORTANT AS THIS ONE!
SO... INTERESTED IN JOINING US?
OF COURSE!
WOULDN'T MISS IT FOR THE WORLD!


IT'S A DANGEROUS JOB!
IT MIGHT GET YOU KILLED--JUST LIKE THAT GUY YOU CARRIED IN HERE THE OTHER DAY.
THAT DOESN'T BOTHER YOU?
NAH... I LOVE A LITTLE ACTION!
HEH!
HEH HEH.
THIS GOLDEN AGE WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE LIVING IN MAKES ME ANTSY!
GOOD. THEN IT'S DECIDED.
FOR ALL OUTWARD APPEARANCES, YOU'LL BE AN ORDINARY MEMBER OF THE TACHIKI DETECTIVE AGENCY.
USUALLY, YOU WOULDN'T BE ALLOWED TO JOIN WITHOUT SOMEONE TO VOUCH FOR YOU.
BUT WE'VE BEEN SHORTHANDED FOR A LONG TIME NOW... OUR MAN-POWER HAS BEEN CUT IN HALF.
JUST LIKE KUSANO...
SOME HAVE BEEN KILLED, OTHERS HAVE DIED OF EXHAUSTION.
AND THE REMAINDER ARE OLD AND TIRED.
SO IT'S BECOME NECESSARY TO BRING IN SOME NEW BLOOD, EH?
HEH.
THAT WORKS OUT GOOD FOR ME.
BY THE WAY, WHAT DO YOU MEAN "FOR A LONG TIME"?
FIFTEEN YEARS!

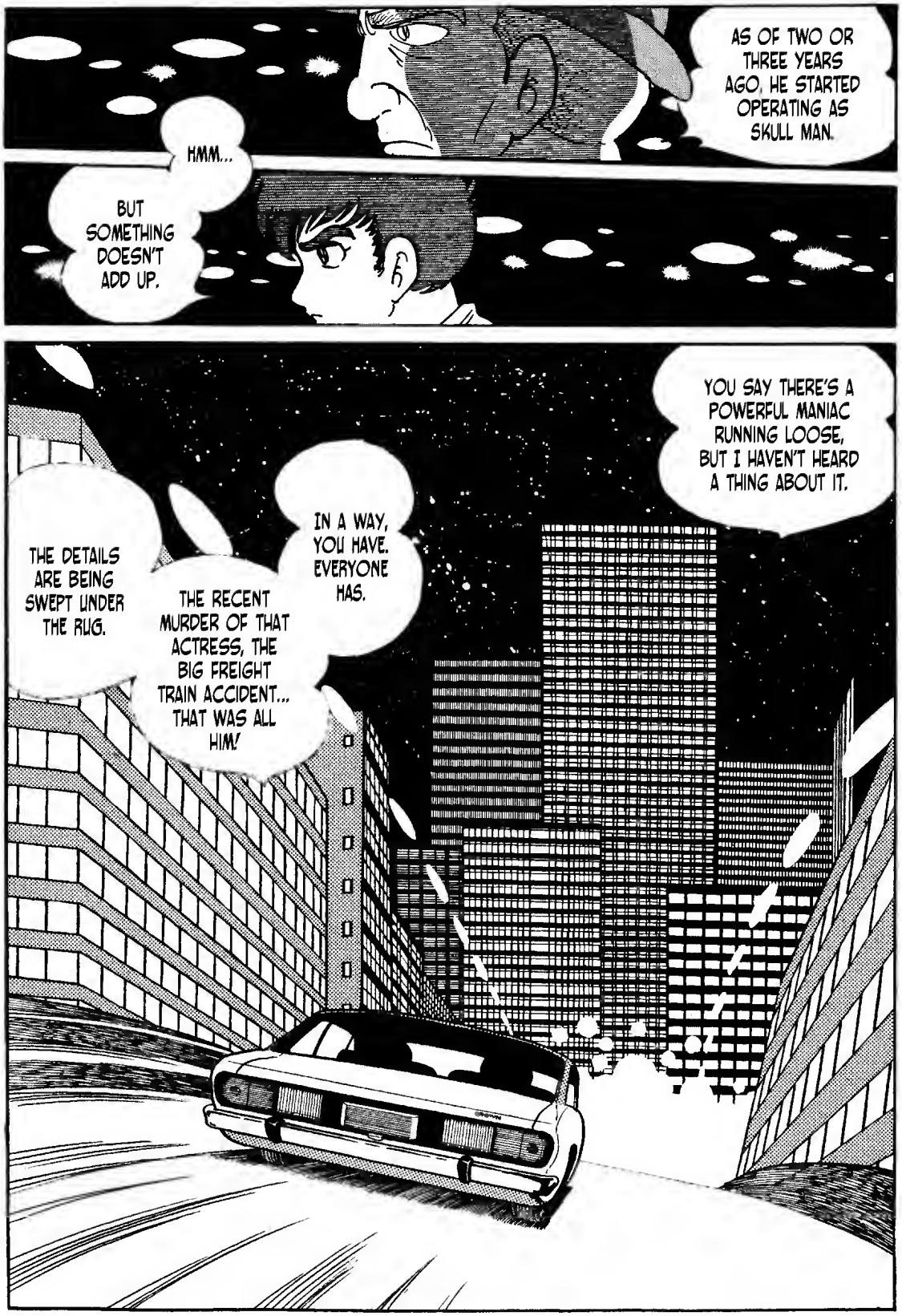
...FROM EVERY CORNER OF JAPAN TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH!
WE'VE BEEN CHASING A MAN... A CHILD, ACTUALLY.
OVER THESE PAST 15 YEARS...
HUH?!
KLACK
WHAM
WHAT ?!
IT...IT HAPPENED AGAIN!
SLAM
CH-CH-CHIEF!

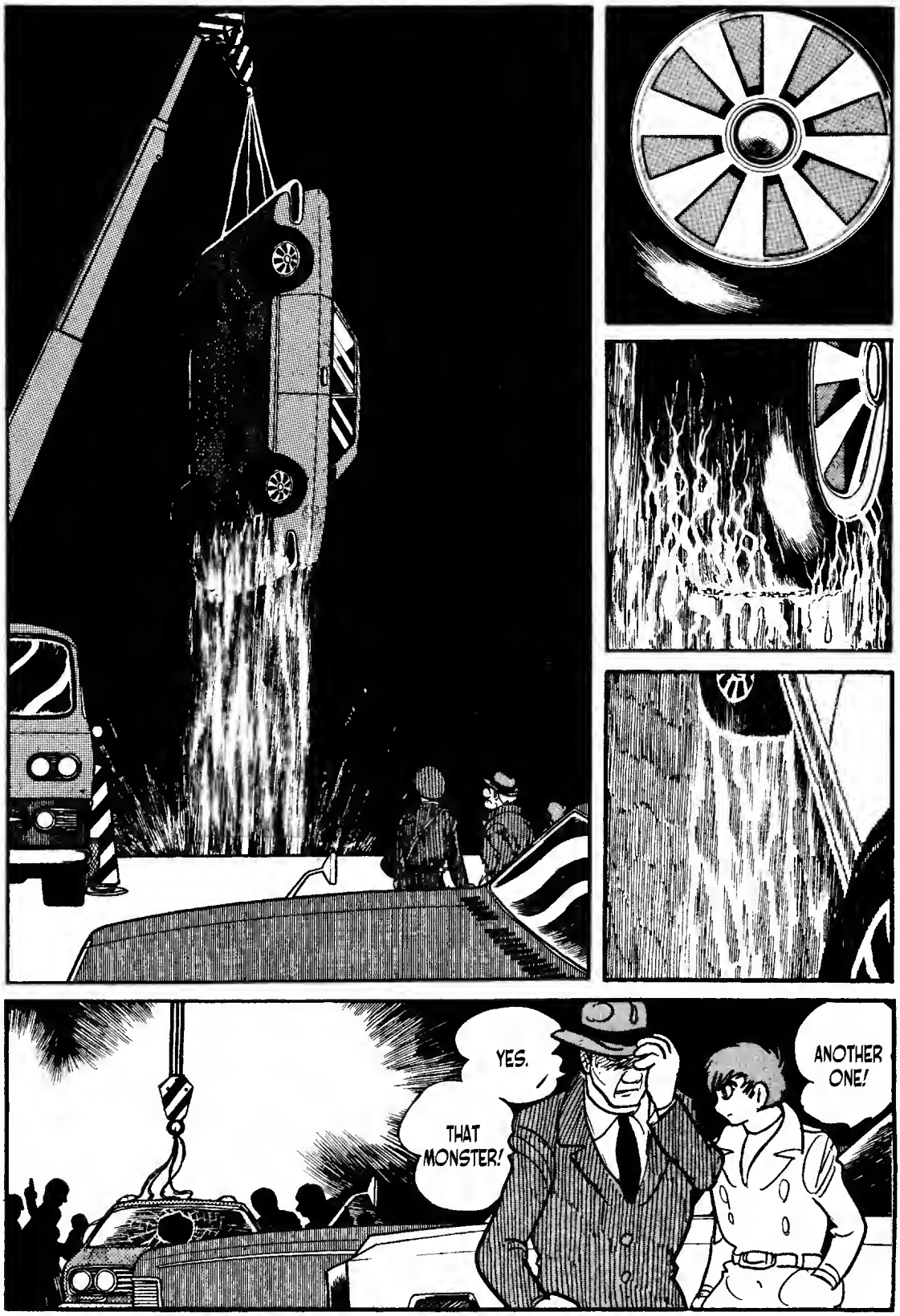
On car: Metropolitan Police Dept.


MS-51
MMM ...
TALK TO ME!
C'MON, CHIEF!
THE CHILD IN THE LOCKET...
THIS "HIM" THAT I'M SUPPOSED TO CHASE AFTER...
"HIM"...

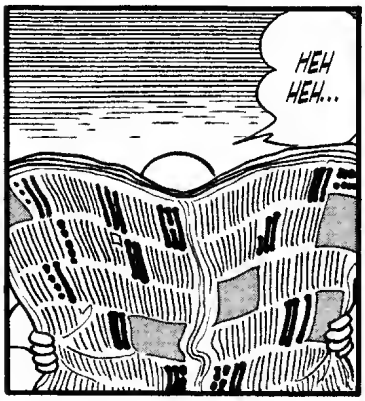
INHUMAN, I TELL YOU...
BUT HE'S JUST A BLOODTHIRSTY KILLER!
HE GAVE HIMSELF THE MONIKER "SKULL MAN."
EVEN CALLING HIM "BLOODTHIRSTY" WOULDN'T BE A STRETCH!
HE'S A DANGEROUS MAN!
THE MAN'S A MONSTER!
IN FACT, HE ENJOYS IT!
THAT WOULD MAKE THIS SKULL MAN 18 YEARS OLD NOW.
IT'S BEEN 15 YEARS SINCE THEN.
THE PHOTO WAS TAKEN WHEN HE WAS 3 YEARS OLD.
AMAZING... THAT'S THE SAME AGE AS ME.
EIGHTEEN, EH?
HUH!
THAT'S WHY WE'RE INVESTIGATING EVERY 18-YEAR-OLD MALE IN THE COUNTRY, FROM THE NORTH TO THE SOUTH OF JAPAN.
YES...
I'M HAVING A HARD TIME WRAPPING MY HEAD AROUND ALL THIS!

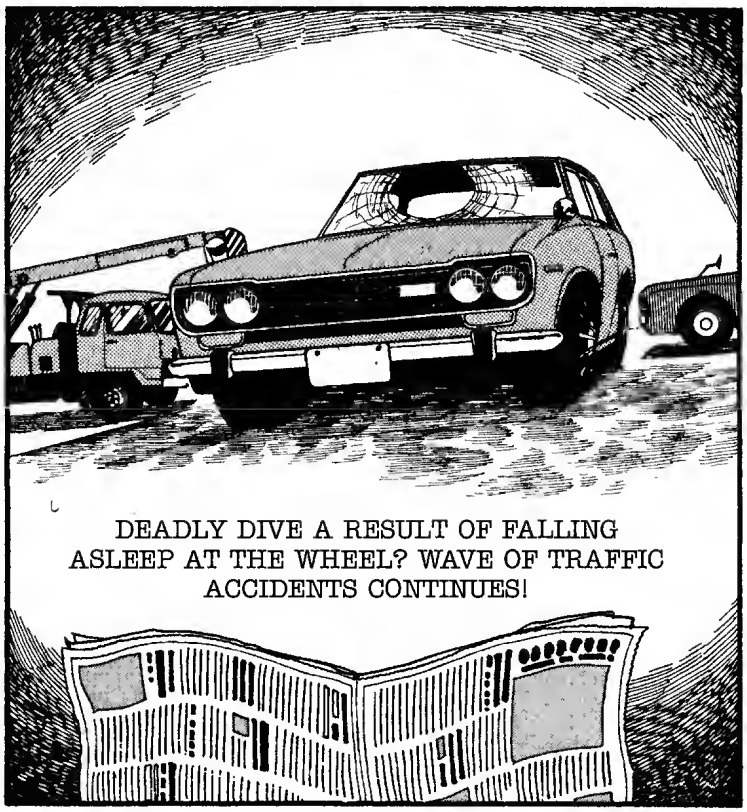
FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, WE CHECKED OUT 3-YEAR-OLD BOYS.
WE'VE BEEN FOLLOWING HIM FOR 15 YEARS.
IT'S IMPERATIVE THAT WE FIND HIM.
AND LAST YEAR, WE INVESTIGATED 17-YEAR-OLDS.
THE NEXT YEAR, IT WAS 4-YEAR-OLD BOYS.
WHAT ABOUT FAMILY?
THERE AREN'T ANY.
AT LEAST NONE RECORDED.
HOW-EVER...
HIS PARENTS... RELATIVES?
WHEN THIS "SKULL MAN" WAS BORN, HE INHERITED HIS PARENTS' POWER.
THEY'RE ALREADY DEAD... AND BOTH OF THEM WERE DANGEROUSLY POWERFUL PEOPLE.
WE KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT HIS PARENTS...
BUT WE WERE TOO LATE.
BEFORE SOMETHING HAPPENED, BEFORE THAT CHILD UNLEASHED HIS MONSTROUS POWERS ON THE WORLD, HE HAD TO BE ELIMINATED.
THAT'S WHY WE CHASED HIM.


AS OF TWO OR THREE YEARS AGO, HE STARTED OPERATING AS SKULL MAN.
HMM...
BUT SOMETHING DOESN'T ADD UP.
YOU SAY THERE'S A POWERFUL MANIAC RUNNING LOOSE, BUT I HAVEN'T HEARD A THING ABOUT IT.
IN A WAY, YOU HAVE. EVERYONE HAS.
THE RECENT MURDER OF THAT ACTRESS, THE BIG FREIGHT TRAIN ACCIDENT... THAT WAS ALL HIM!
THE DETAILS ARE BEING SWEPT UNDER THE RUG.

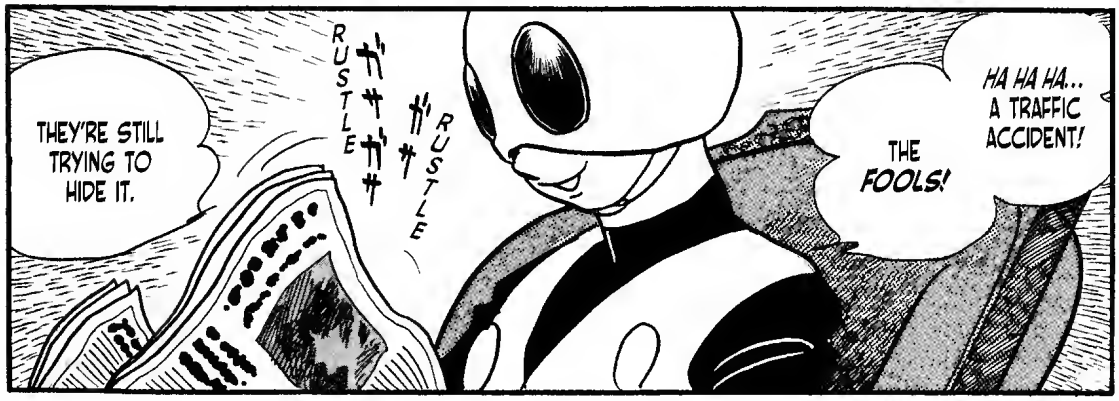

YES.
THAT MONSTER!
ANOTHER ONE!

SOON WE'LL HAVE THAT MISERABLE BASTARD BY THE *THROAT!*
SOON...
THAT WE'RE GETTING CLOSE AND SKULL MAN IS BEGINNING TO GET NERVOUS!
BUT THIS MUST MEAN...


HEH HEH...


DEADLY DIVE A RESULT OF FALLING ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL? WAVE OF TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS CONTINUES!

BWA HA HA HA...
HA HA HA...


THEY'RE STILL TRYING TO HIDE IT.
ガサガサ RUSTLE
ガサガサ RUSTLE
THE *FOOLS!*
HA HA HA... A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT!

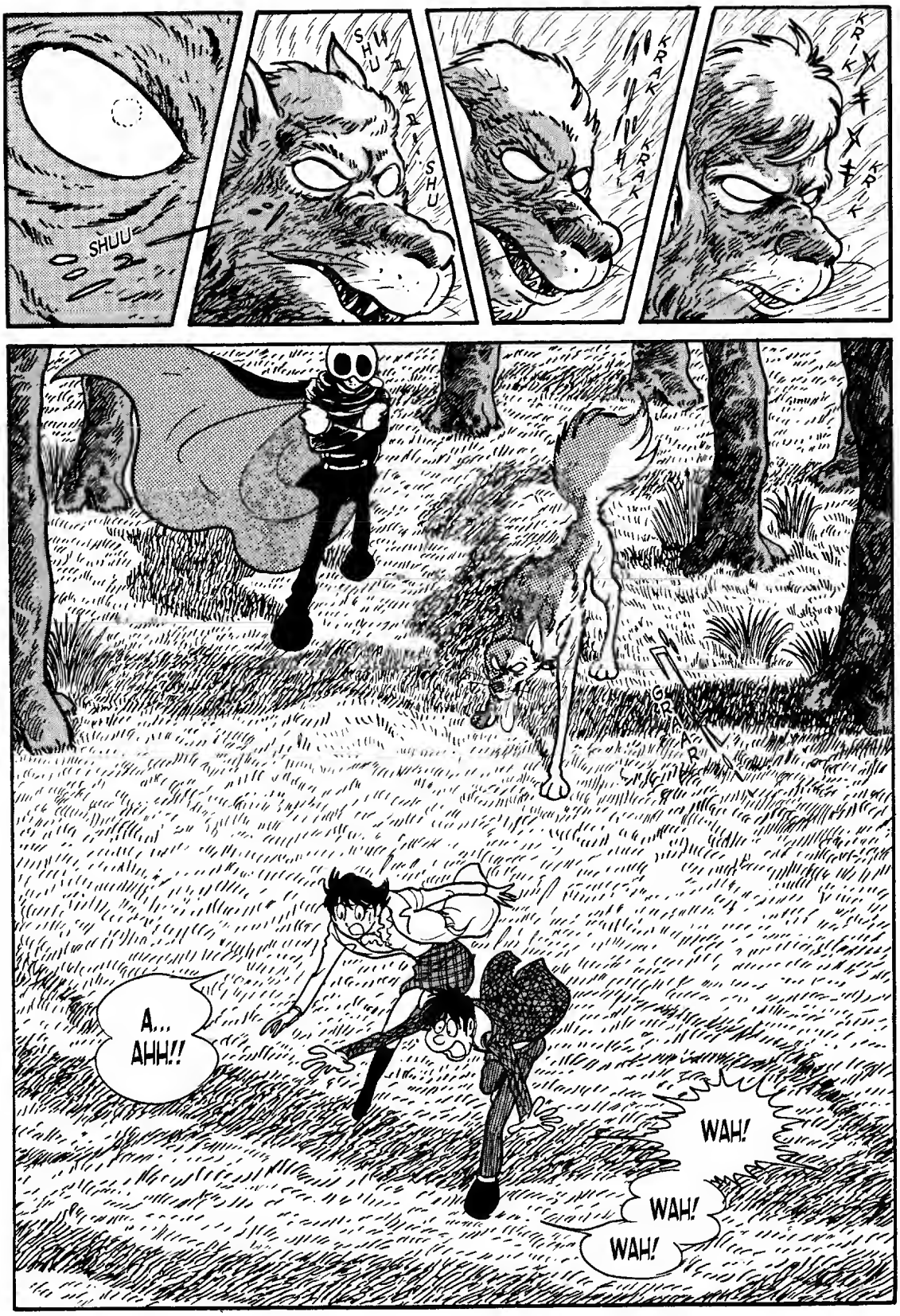
...
COME, GARO.
OH WELL.
IT DOESN'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO ME EITHER WAY.
...SHALL BE SENT TO HELL BY SKULL MAN!!
EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM WHO'S CONNECTED TO THIS FILTHY BUSINESS... EVERY SINGLE ONE...
HEH HEH HEH HEH.
HEH HEH.
LET'S DRIVE THEM INTO A CORNER!
SHALL WE BE OFF?

LET'S GO!
THUK

VROM
VA
VA
VA
VA

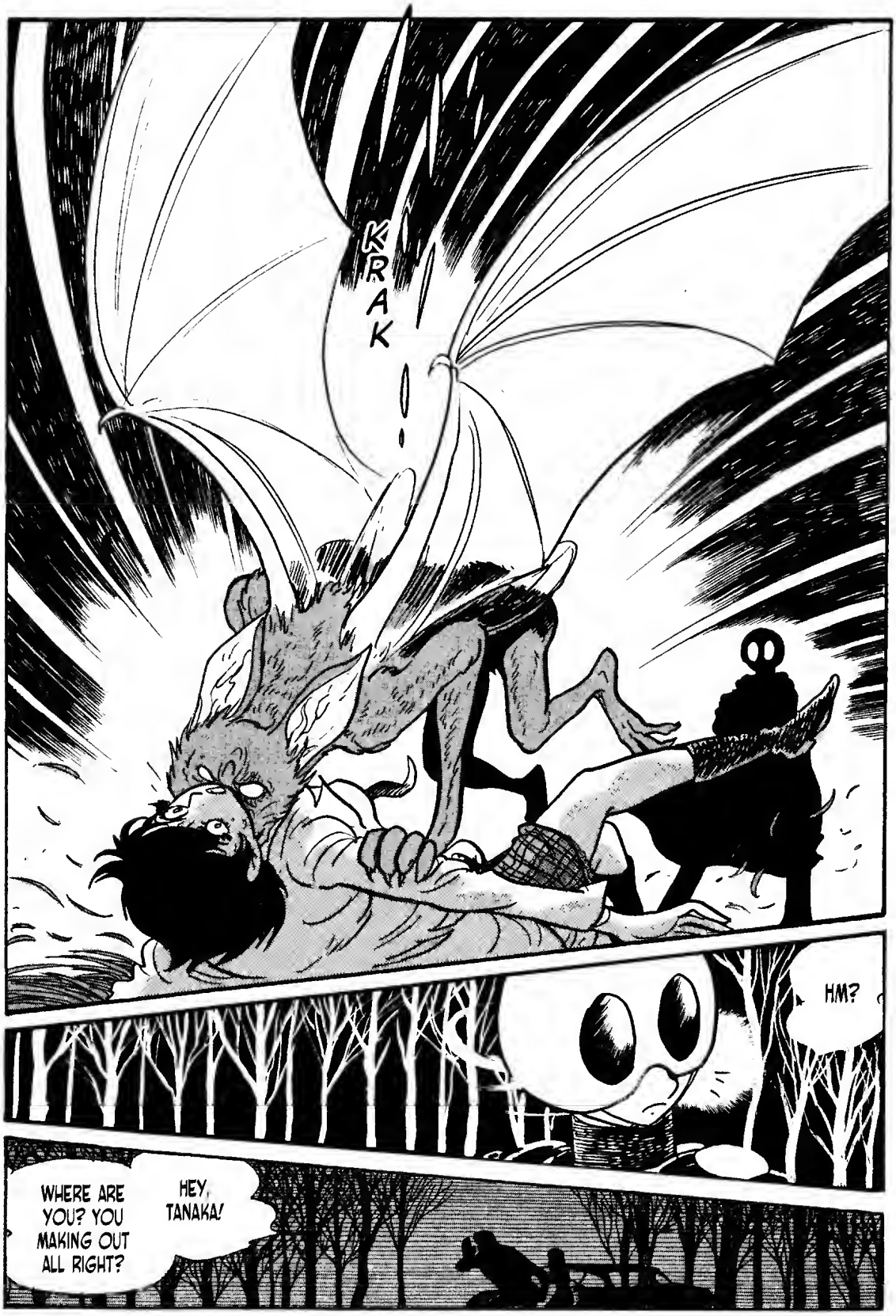
CHAK
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, EMI?
HEY! WAIT!
WAIT UP!
NO... STOP IT!

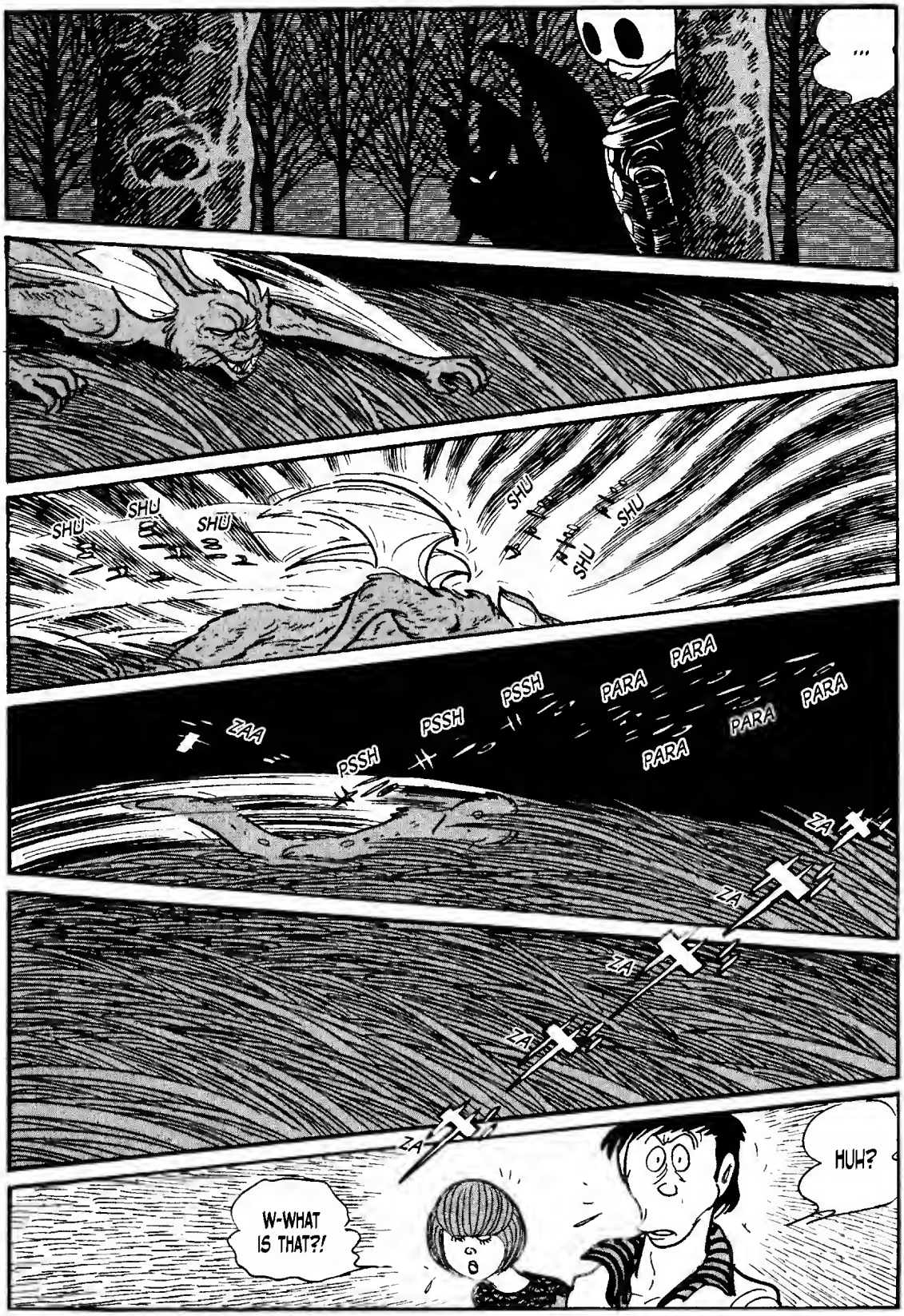
W-WHAT THE...?!
...
ZAA
KRAK KRAK KRAK KRAK KRAK
SHU SHU SHU SHU SHU
KRIK KRIK
SHU...
SHUU
SHUU...
SHU SHU SHU


SHUU
SHU
SHU
KRAK
KRAK
KRIK
KRIK
GRRR
A... AHH!!
WAH!
WAH!
WAH!

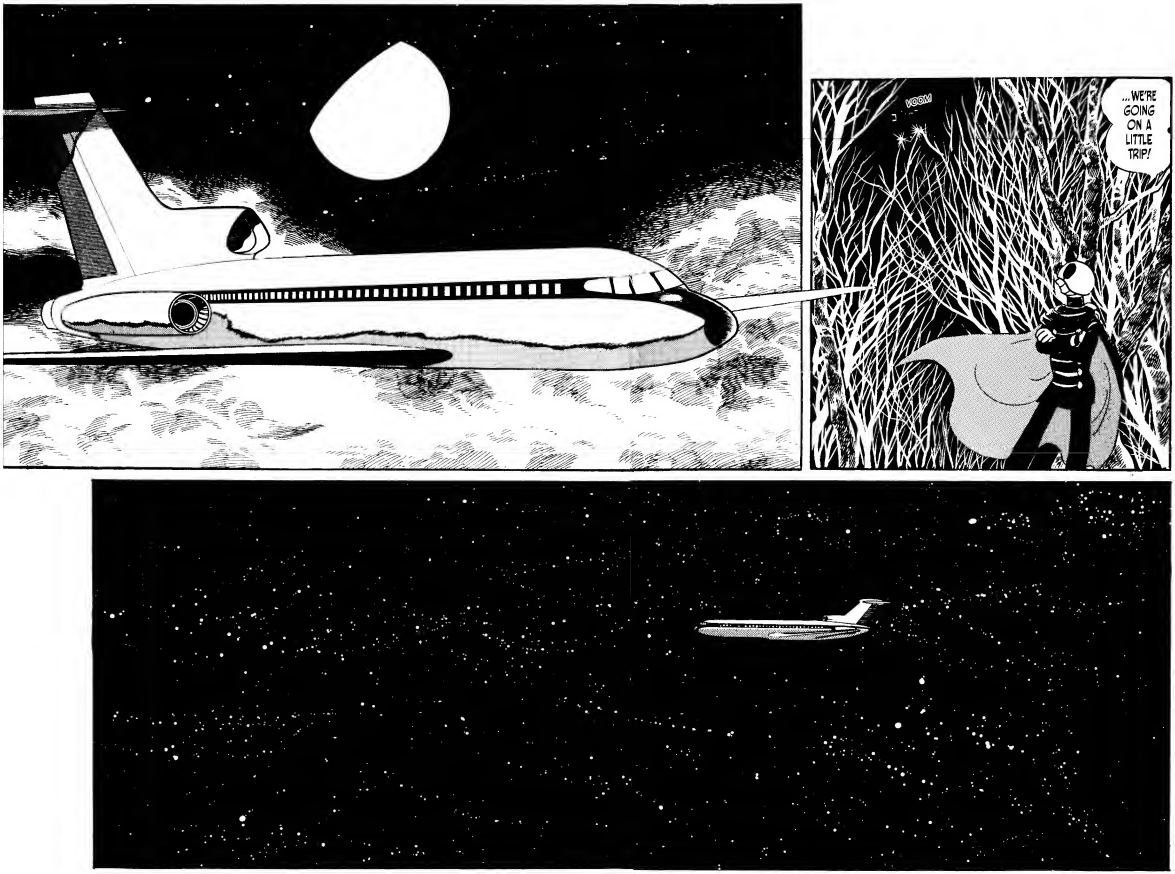
KYAAH!!
KOK
GAH ...
GRRR

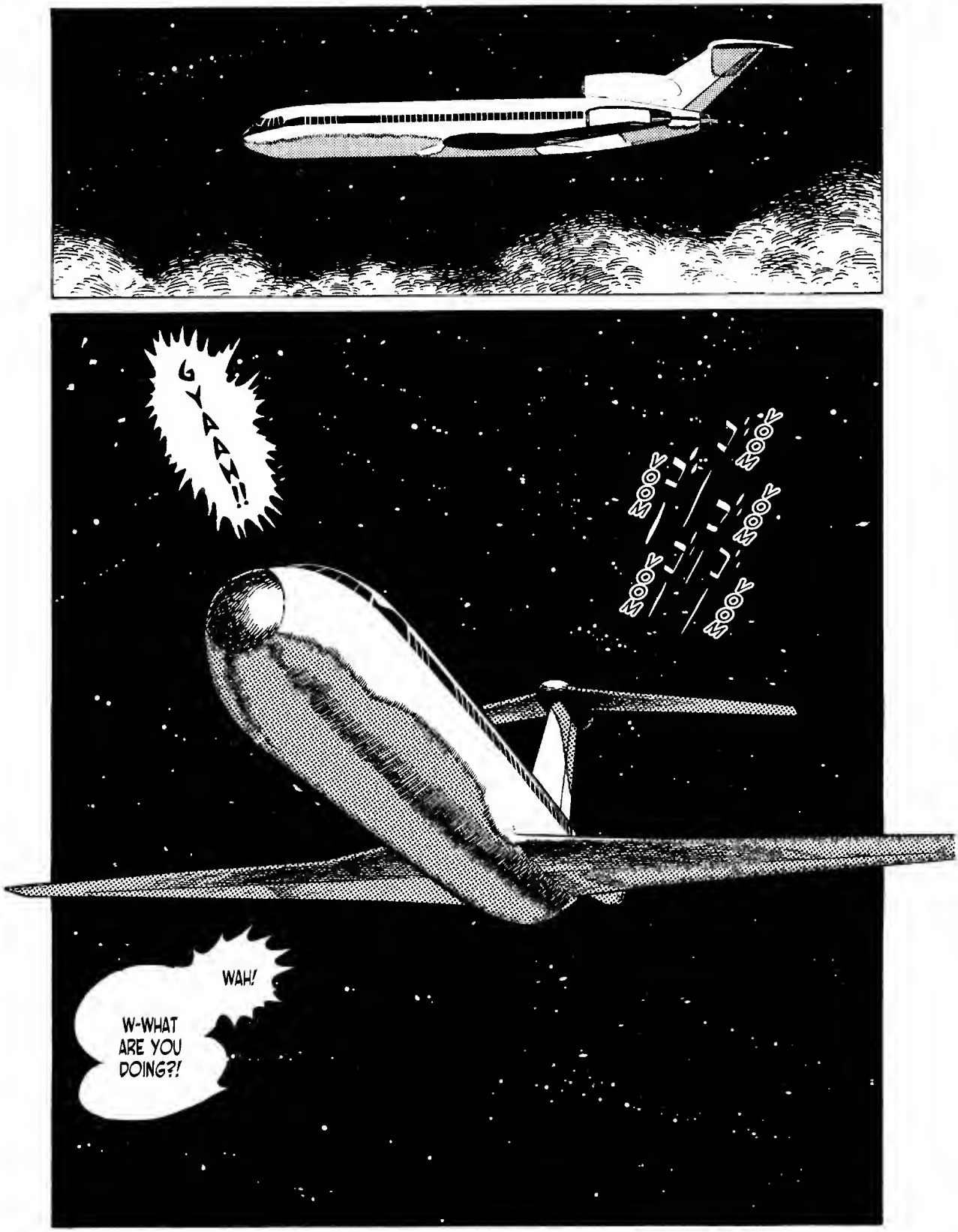
HEH HEH.
EEEK!
EEH!
YOUNG LADY, I'M AFRAID YOUR ASSOCIATION WITH THAT DECADENT YOUNG MAN HAS SEALED YOUR FATE.
SHU SHU SHU
SHU SHU SHU SHU SHU SHU SHU
KRI KRI KRI KRI KRI KRI KRI
PAK

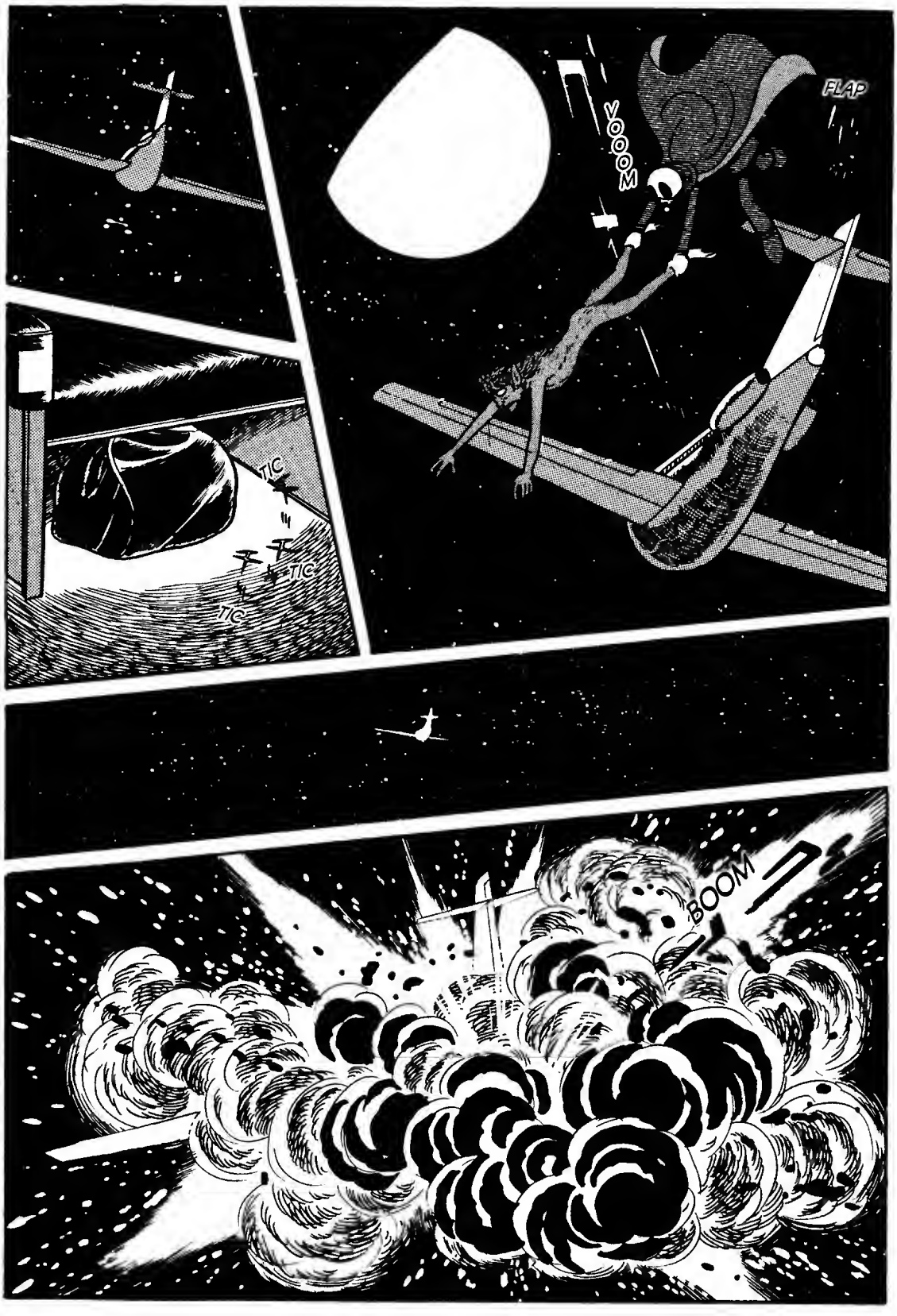

KRAK!!
HM?
HEY, TANAKA!
WHERE ARE YOU? YOU MAKING OUT ALL RIGHT?


...
SHU
SHU
SHU
SHU
SHU
SHU
ZAA
PSSH
PSSH
PSSH
PARA
PARA
PARA
PARA
PARA
ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA
W-WHAT IS THAT?!
HUH?

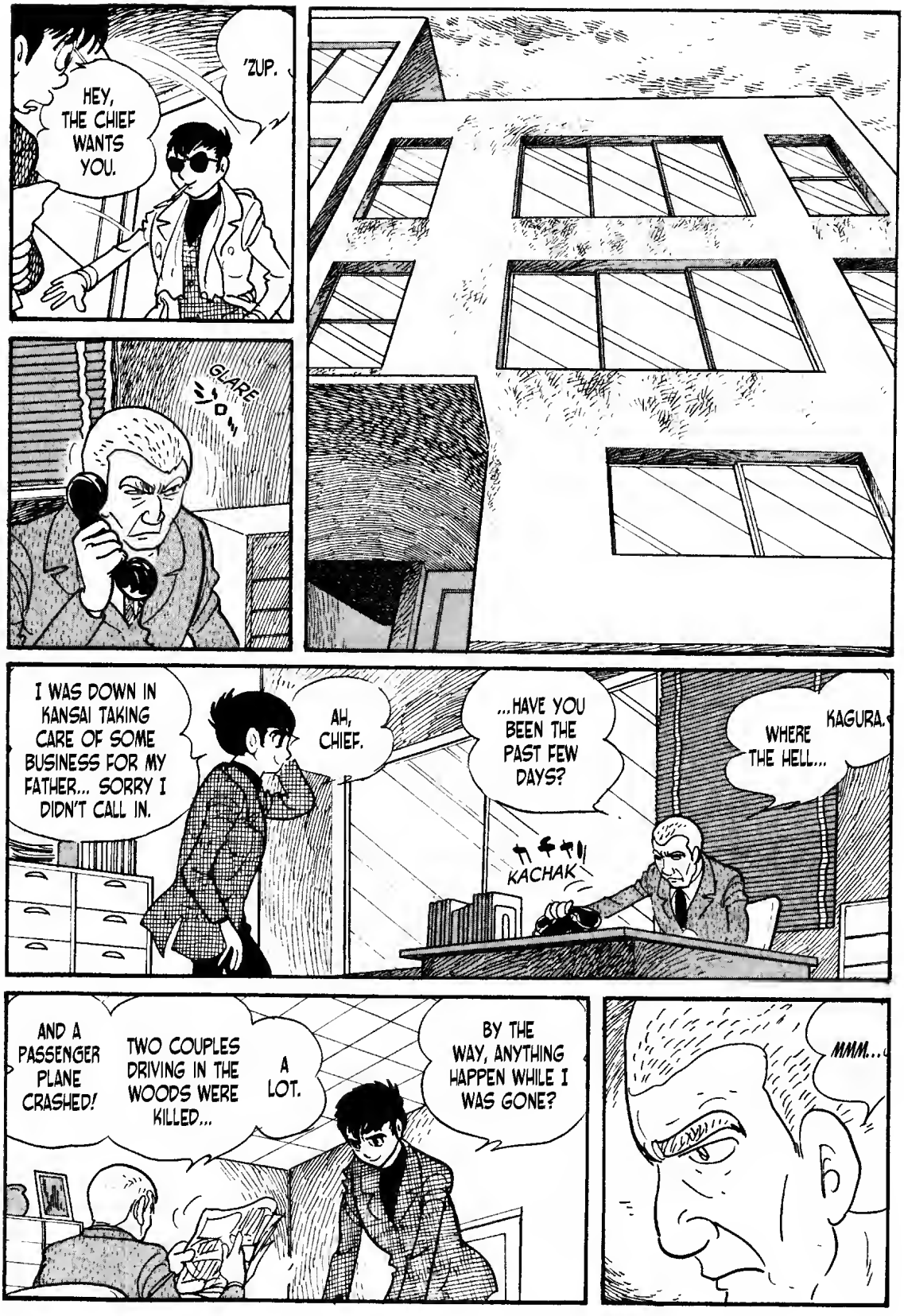
SHUM
ZAK
HYAH !!
GAH!
CHOMP
HEH HEH HEH.
GARO IS CERTAINLY ENJOYING THIS!
HEH HEH... THAT'LL DO FOR TONIGHT. AND TOMORROW...


VOOM!
...WE'RE GOING ON A LITTLE TRIP!

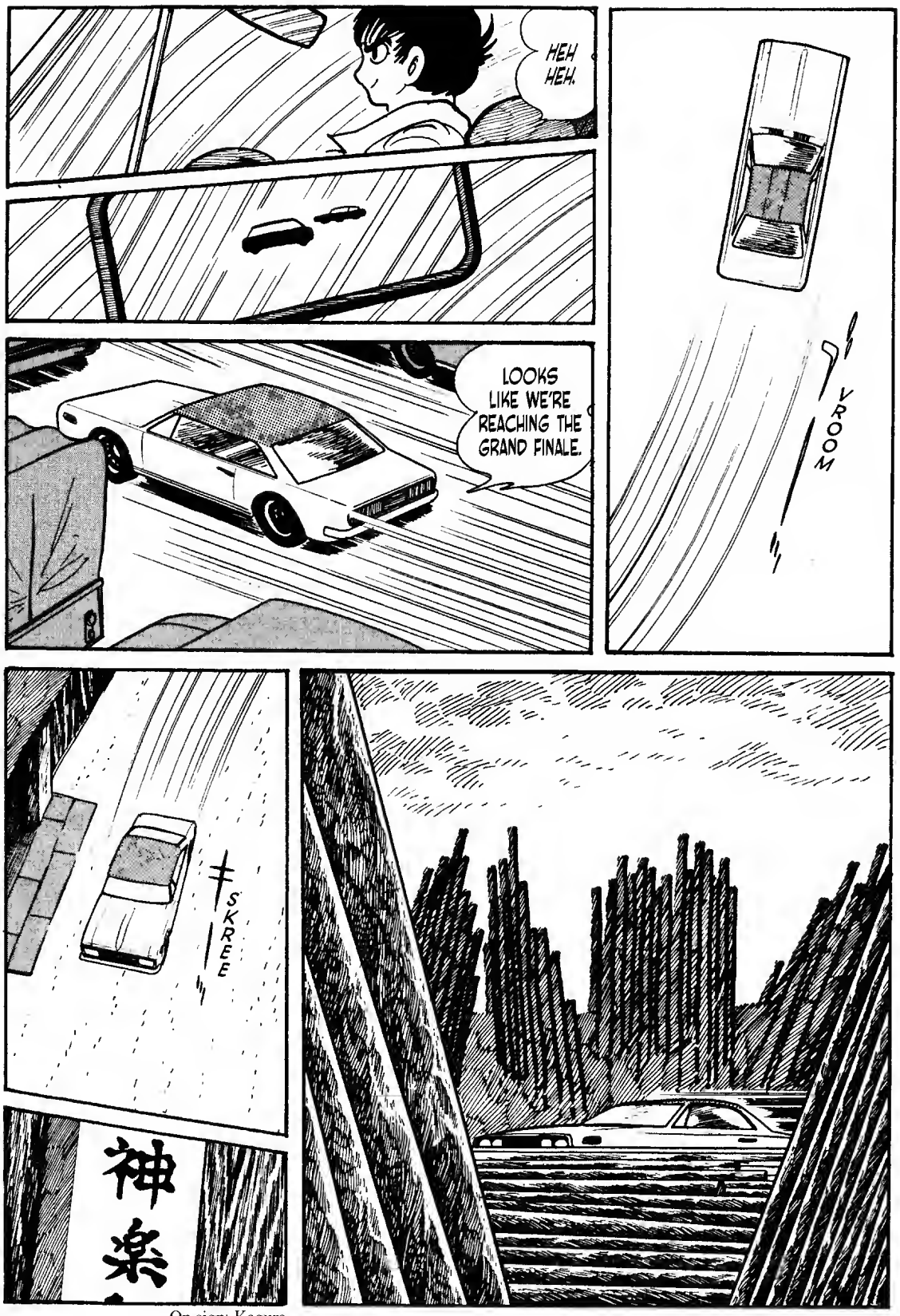

GYAAH!!
WAH!
W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!


VOOOM
FLAP
TIC
TIC
TIC
BOOM

HEH
HEH
HEH.
BA
BA
BA
BA
BA
BA
BA


'ZUP.
HEY, THE CHIEF WANTS YOU.
GLARE
I WAS DOWN IN KANSAI TAKING CARE OF SOME BUSINESS FOR MY FATHER... SORRY I DIDN'T CALL IN.
AH, CHIEF.
...HAVE YOU BEEN THE PAST FEW DAYS?
KACHAK
WHERE THE HELL... KAGURA.
AND A PASSENGER PLANE CRASHED!
TWO COUPLES DRIVING IN THE WOODS WERE KILLED...
A LOT.
BY THE WAY, ANYTHING HAPPEN WHILE I WAS GONE?
MMM...

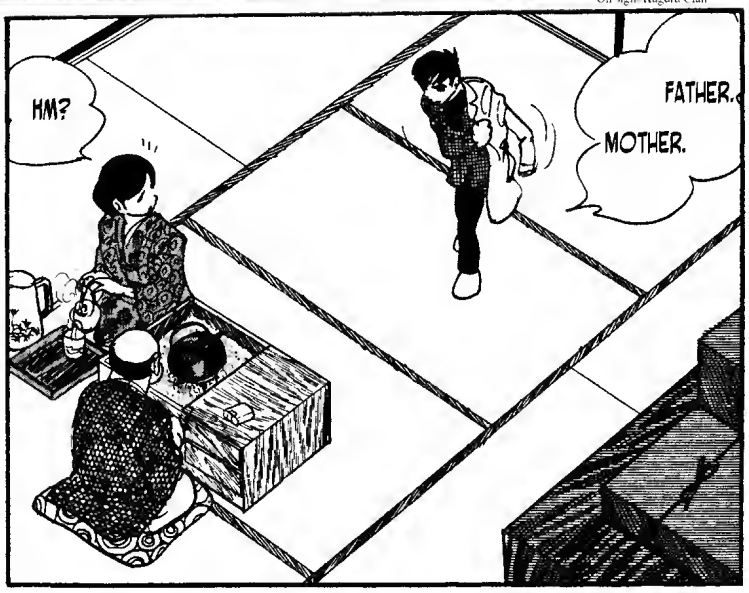
SKULL MAN WAS DEFINITELY BEHIND IT!
BUT DIDN'T THEY SAY THE CAUSE WAS UNKNOWN?
...THE PLANE CRASH IN THE PAPER.
I READ ABOUT ...
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK IT WAS OUR MAN?
AND THOSE COUPLES IN THE WOODS... ANYBODY COULD'VE MURDERED THEM!
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?
ALL OF THESE INCIDENTS ARE DIRECTLY CONNECTED!
I'M SURE OF IT!
I DON'T "THINK"--I KNOW!
SO QUIT DAWDLING! GO OUT THERE AND GET SOME LEADS!
A-AT ANY RATE, THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE! WE'VE GOT TO NAB SKULL MAN!
...
...YOU GOT IT.
SMIRK
...
On door: Director's Office



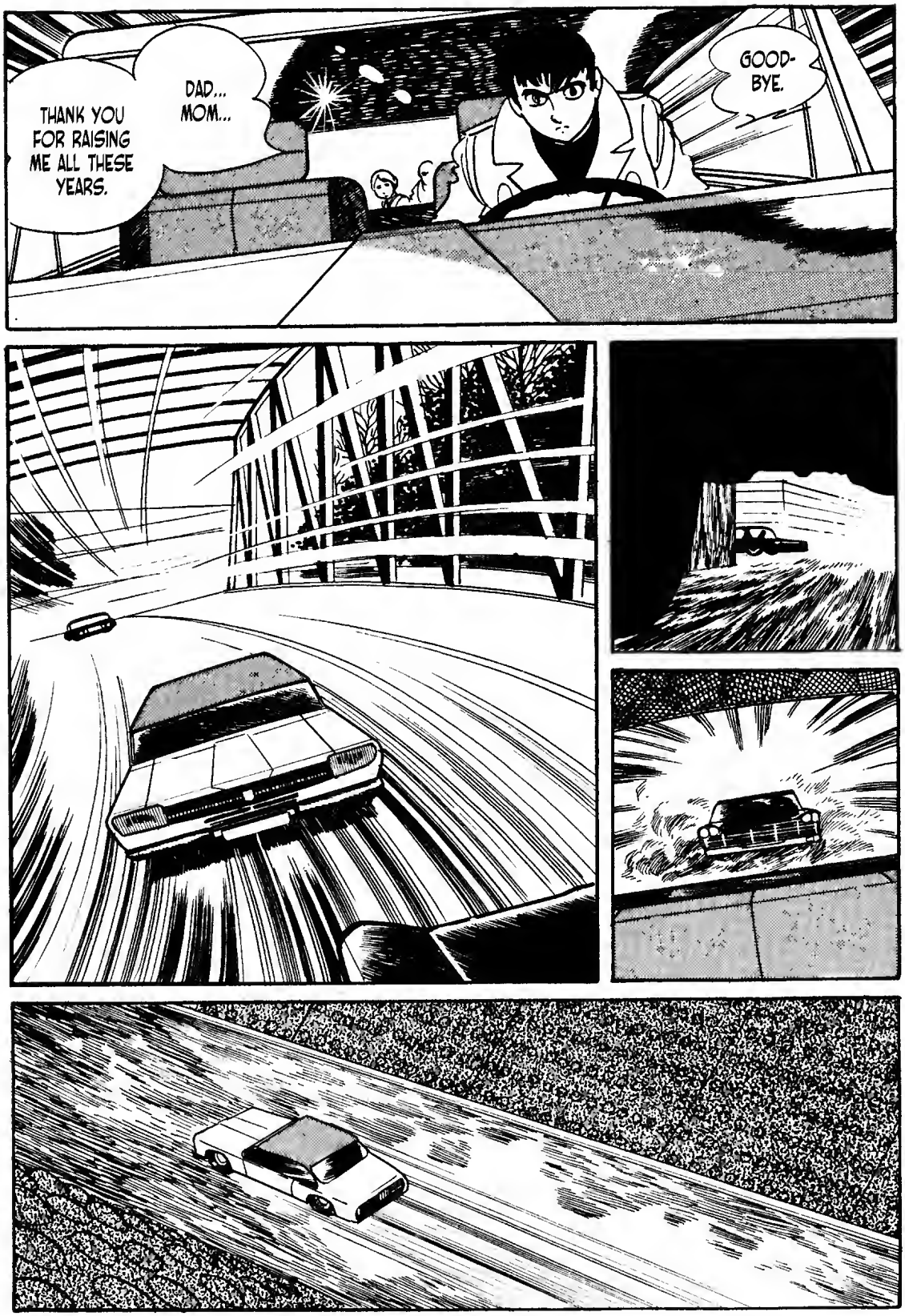
On sign: Kagura

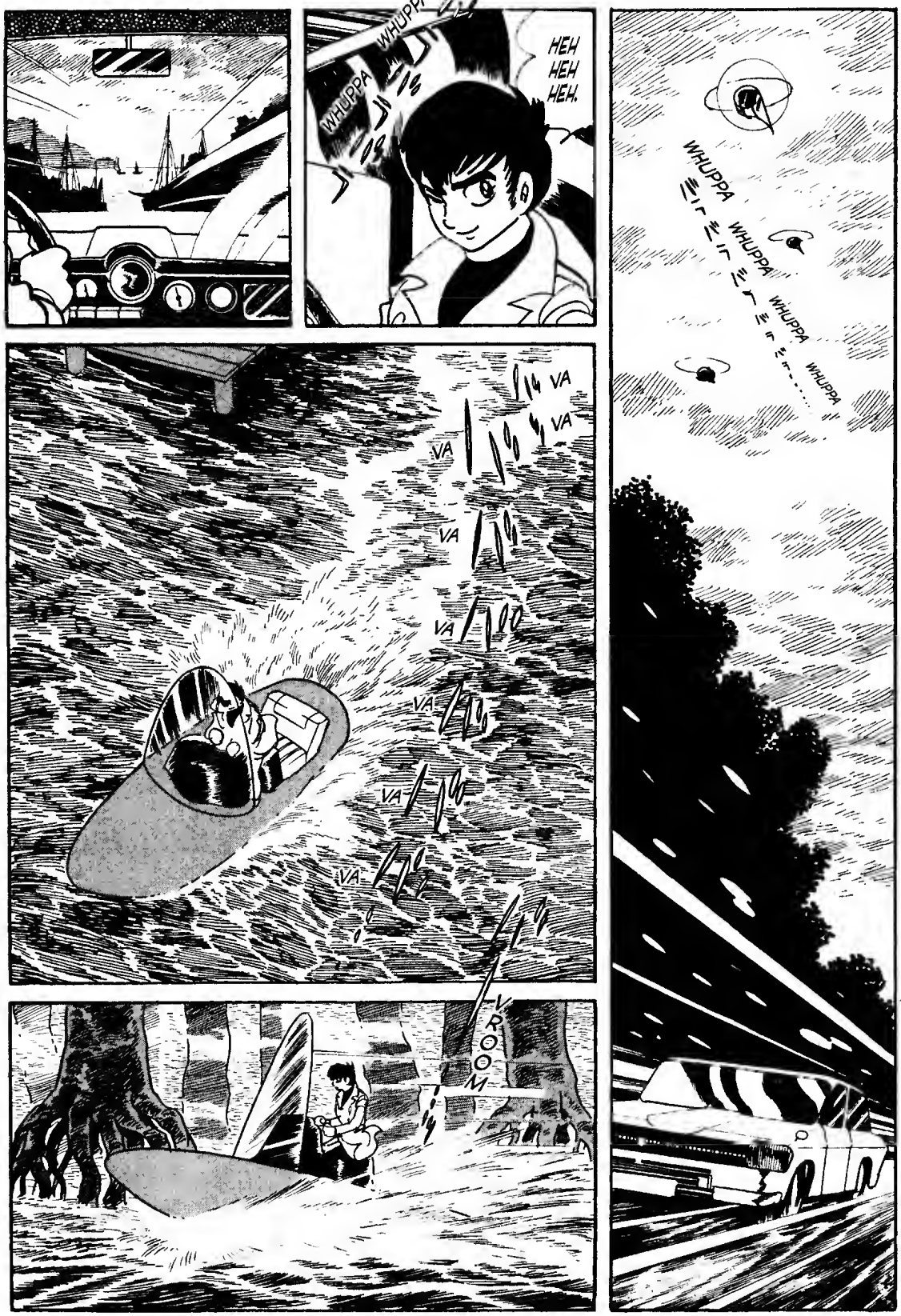
On sign: Kagura Clan

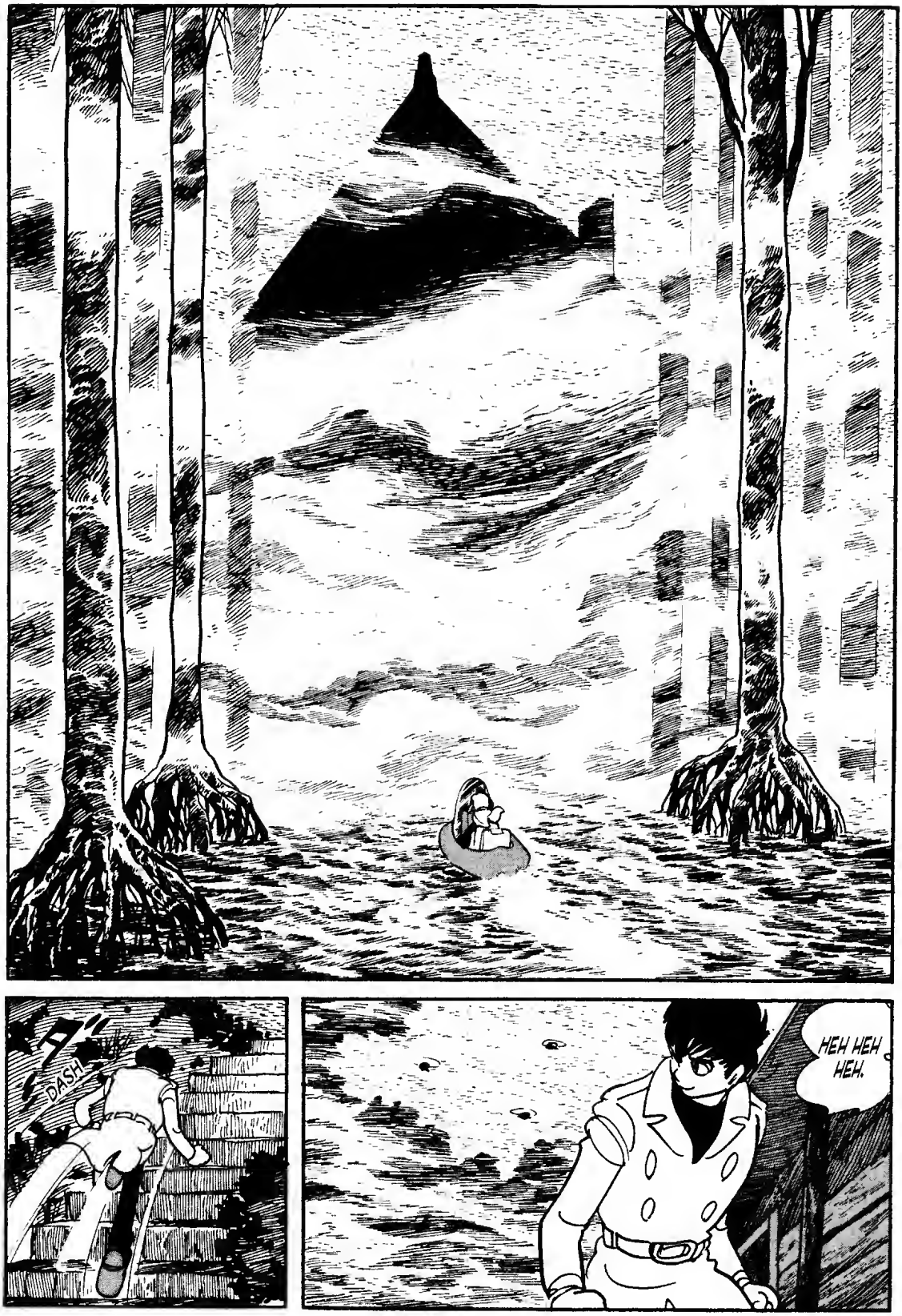
...


HM?
FATHER.
MOTHER.

I...I JUST NEED TO GO ON A LITTLE TRIP.
NOTHING'S WRONG...
HUH? NO.
SOMETHING WRONG? YOU NEVER ADDRESS US THIS FORMALLY.
WHAT IS IT, TATSUO?
DUNNO YET...
WILL YOU BE GONE LONG?
YEAH.
FOR THAT COMPANY I'M WORKIN' AT...
A TRIP?
LATER.
BE CAREFUL.

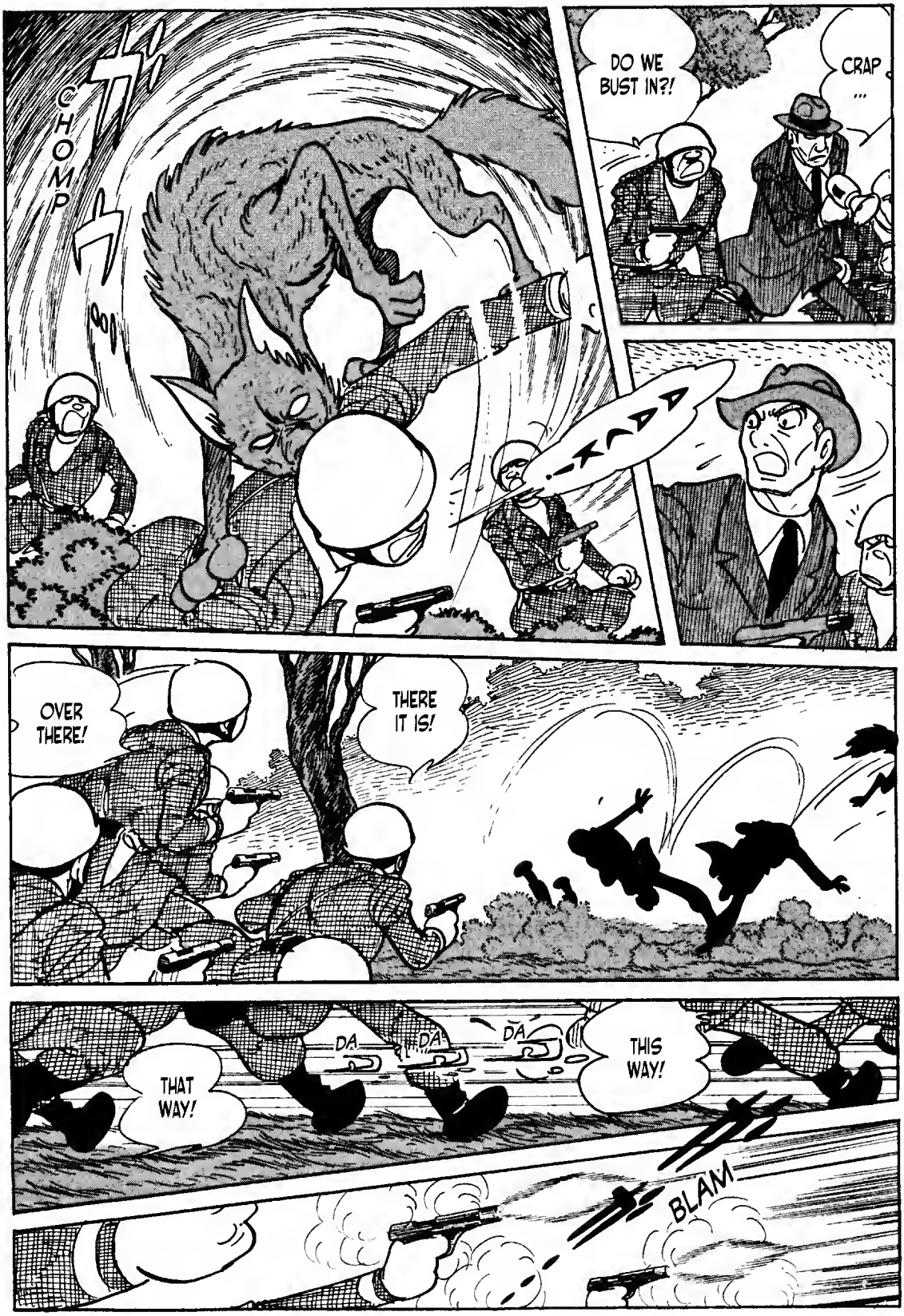

THANK YOU FOR RAISING ME ALL THESE YEARS.
DAD... MOM...
GOOD-BYE.

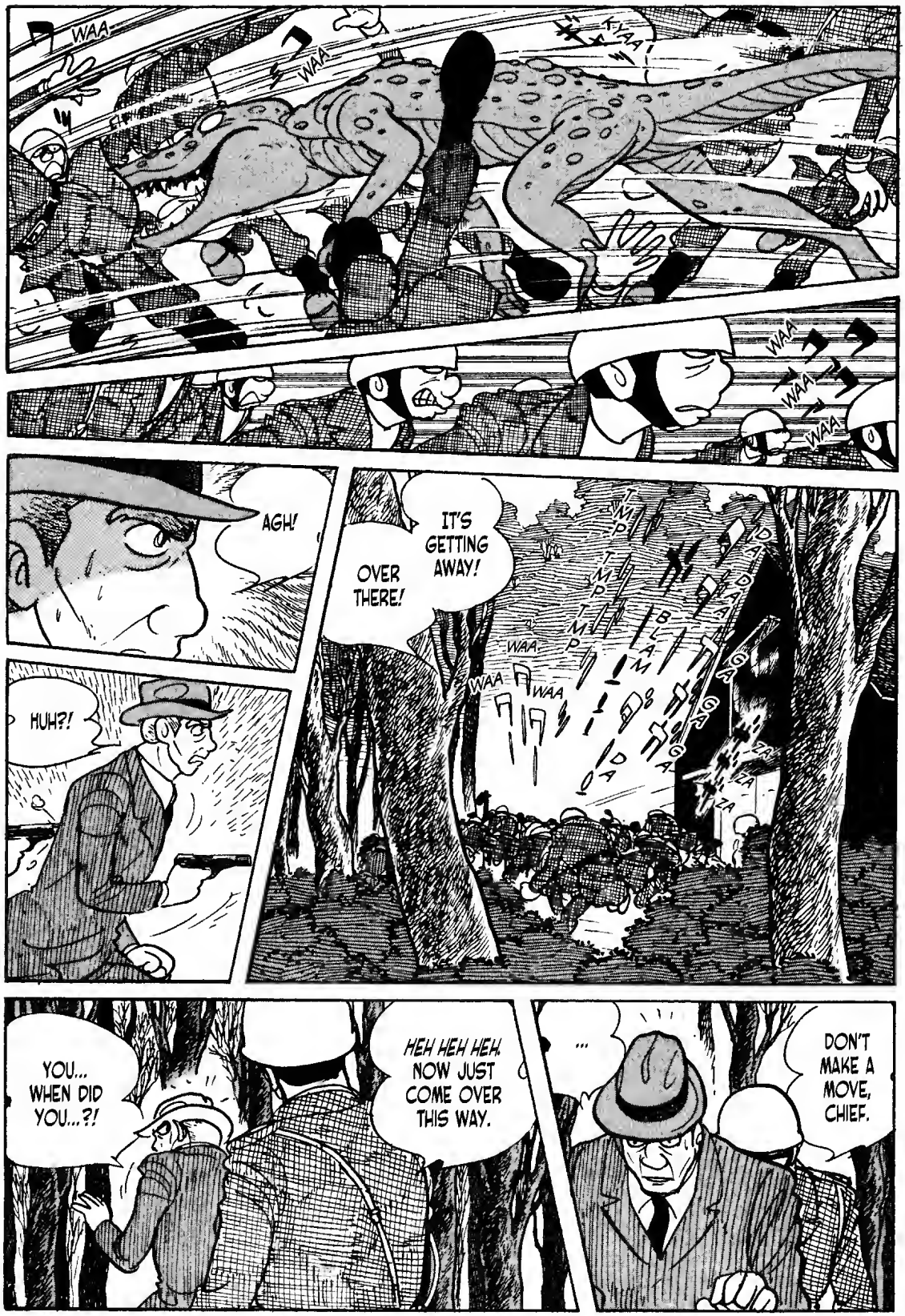

WHUPPA
WHUPPA
HEH HEH HEH.
WHUPPA WHUPPA WHUPPA WHUPPA
VA
VA
VA
VA
VA
VA
VA
VROOM

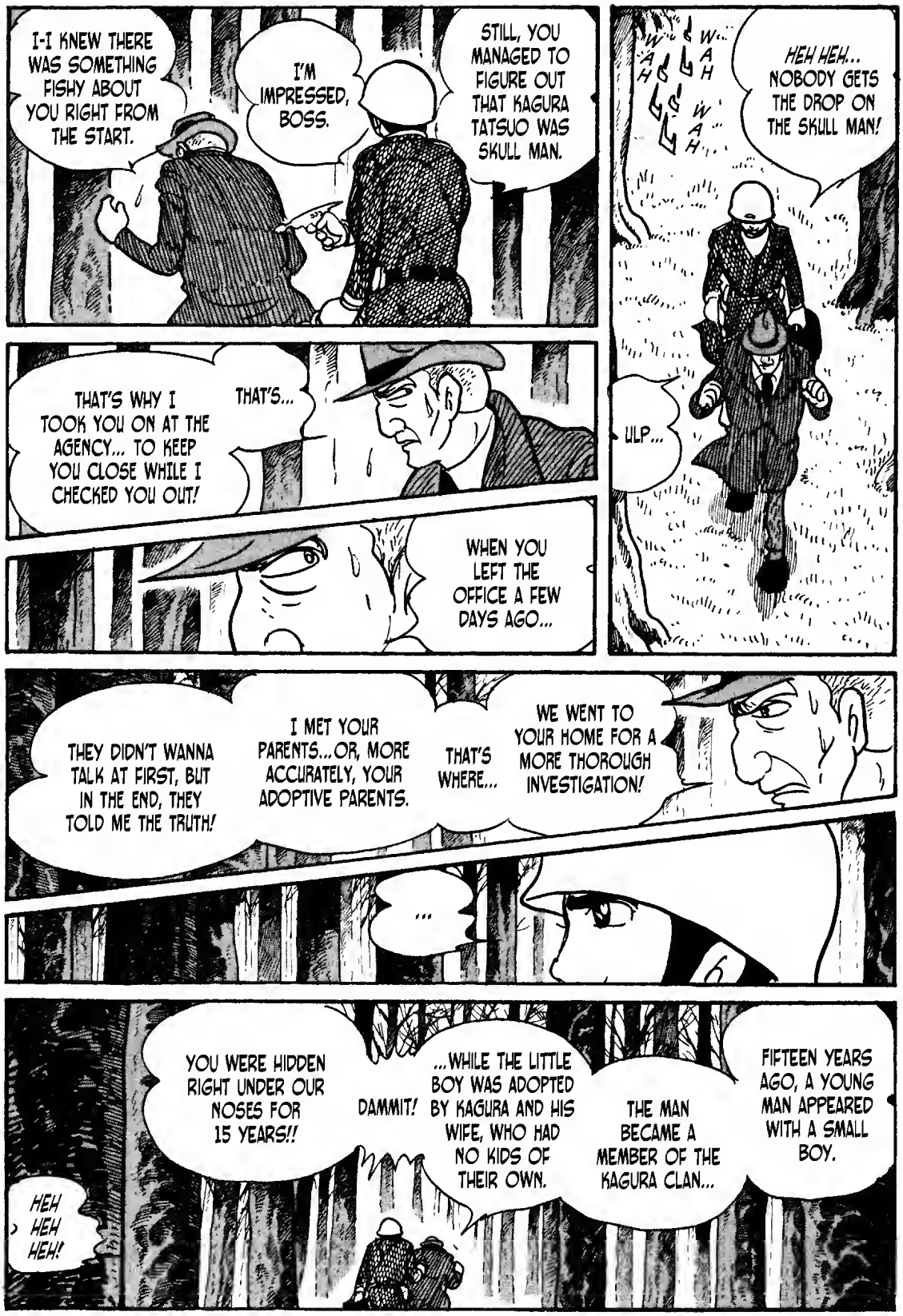

DASH!
HEH HEH HEH.

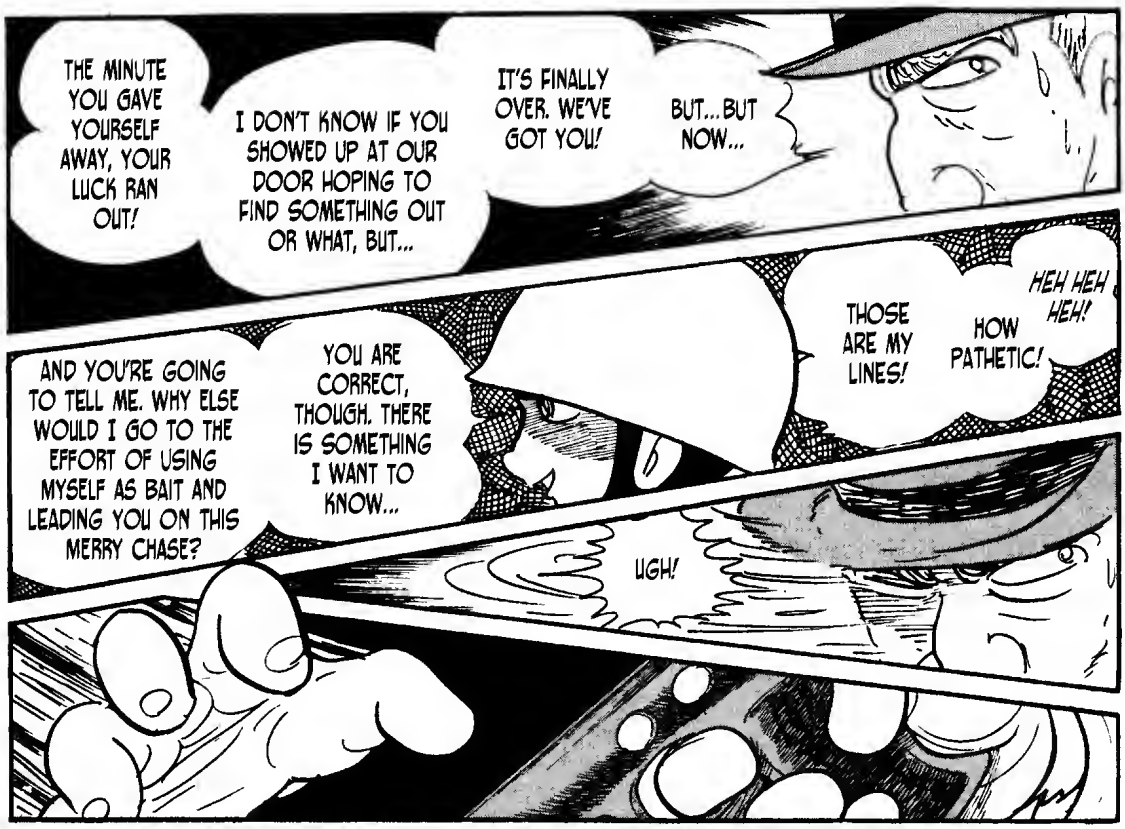
IT ALL ENDS HERE...
THEY'RE ON THEIR WAY HERE! DO THINGS JUST AS WE PLANNED!
GARO!
HEH HEH HEH.
I'M BRINGING DOWN THE CURTAIN.
TONIGHT!
DO
DADA
TMP

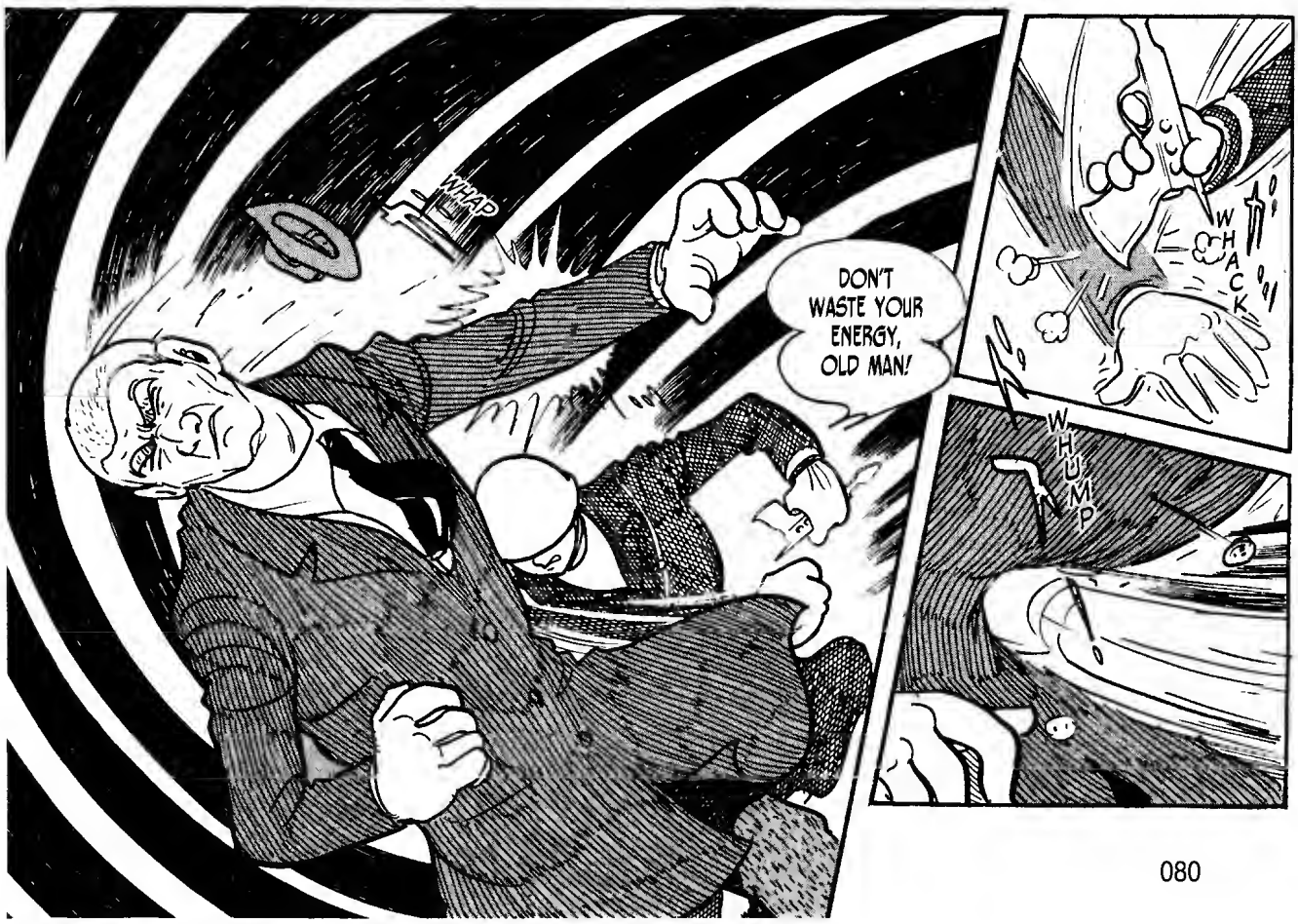
DA,DA,DA
...
YOU CAN'T GET AWAY! WE'VE GOT YOU COMPLETELY SURROUNDED!
GIVE IT UP!
COME OUT, TATSUO!
I KNOW THAT YOU'RE SKULL MAN!
SILENCE


CHOMP
DO WE BUST IN?!
CRAP ...
-KADA
OVER THERE!
THERE IT IS!
THAT WAY!
DA
DA
DA
THIS WAY!
BLAM


WAA
WAA
WAA
WAA
WAA
AGH!
HUH?!
IT'S GETTING AWAY!
OVER THERE!
WAA
WAA
IMP
IMP
IMP
BLAM
DA
DA
DA
GA
GA
GA
ZA
ZA
ZA
YOU... WHEN DID YOU...?!
HEH HEH HEH. NOW JUST COME OVER THIS WAY.
...
DON'T MAKE A MOVE, CHIEF.


I-I KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING FISHY ABOUT YOU RIGHT FROM THE START.
I'M IMPRESSED, BOSS.
STILL, YOU MANAGED TO FIGURE OUT THAT KAGURA TATSUO WAS SKULL MAN.
WAH WAH WAH WAH
HEH HEH... NOBODY GETS THE DROP ON THE SKULL MAN!
ULP...
THAT'S WHY I TOOK YOU ON AT THE AGENCY... TO KEEP YOU CLOSE WHILE I CHECKED YOU OUT!
THAT'S...
WHEN YOU LEFT THE OFFICE A FEW DAYS AGO...
THEY DIDN'T WANNA TALK AT FIRST, BUT IN THE END, THEY TOLD ME THE TRUTH!
I MET YOUR PARENTS...OR, MORE ACCURATELY, YOUR ADOPTIVE PARENTS.
THAT'S WHERE...
WE WENT TO YOUR HOME FOR A MORE THOROUGH INVESTIGATION!
...
YOU WERE HIDDEN RIGHT UNDER OUR NOSES FOR 15 YEARS!!
DAMMIT!
...WHILE THE LITTLE BOY WAS ADOPTED BY KAGURA AND HIS WIFE, WHO HAD NO KIDS OF THEIR OWN.
THE MAN BECAME A MEMBER OF THE KAGURA CLAN...
FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, A YOUNG MAN APPEARED WITH A SMALL BOY.
HEH HEH HEH!

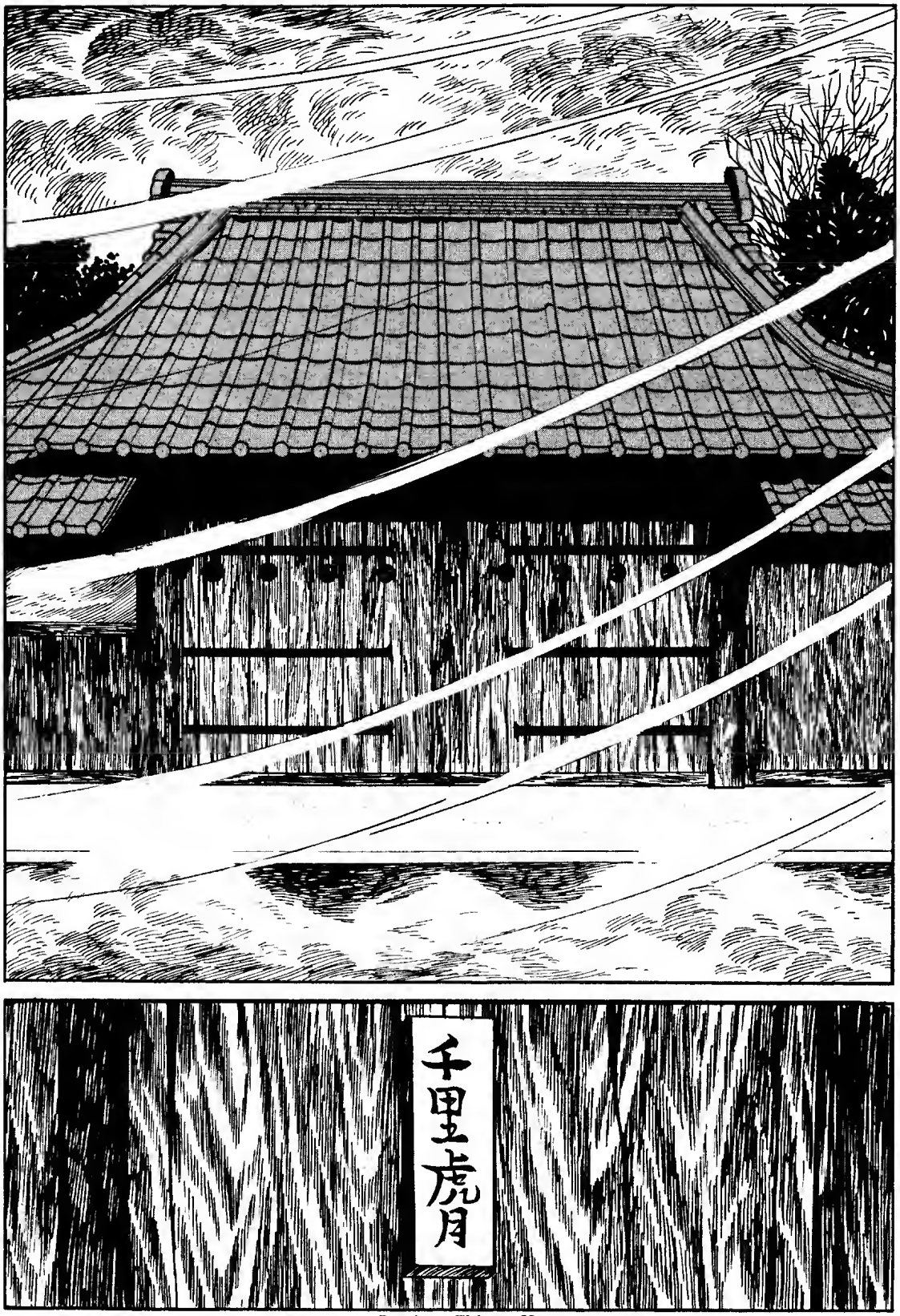

THE MINUTE YOU GAVE YOURSELF AWAY, YOUR LUCK RAN OUT!
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU SHOWED UP AT OUR DOOR HOPING TO FIND SOMETHING OUT OR WHAT, BUT...
IT'S FINALLY OVER. WE'VE GOT YOU!
BUT...BUT NOW...
AND YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME. WHY ELSE WOULD I GO TO THE EFFORT OF USING MYSELF AS BAIT AND LEADING YOU ON THIS MERRY CHASE?
YOU ARE CORRECT, THOUGH. THERE IS SOMETHING I WANT TO KNOW...
UGH!
THOSE ARE MY LINES!
HOW PATHETIC!
HEH HEH HEH!


WHAP
DON'T WASTE YOUR ENERGY, OLD MAN!
WHACK
WHUMP

DON'T FEEL TOO BAD. I'VE BEEN BUSY THESE PAST 15 YEARS, TOO...
...TRYING TO TRACK YOU DOWN.
15 YEARS... I SPENT 15 YEARS OF MY LIFE...
CRAP ...
DAMN IT! DAMN IT!
HEH HEH HEH.
...CHASING MY OWN PREY!!
I...JUST GOT MY ORDERS BY PHONE!
I-I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING!
I-I DON'T KNOW!
WHERE IS HE?!
WHO WAS IT THAT ORDERED YOU TO FIND ME? GIVE ME HIS NAME!
NOW TELL ME.
YOU KNOW!
YOU...
LIAR!

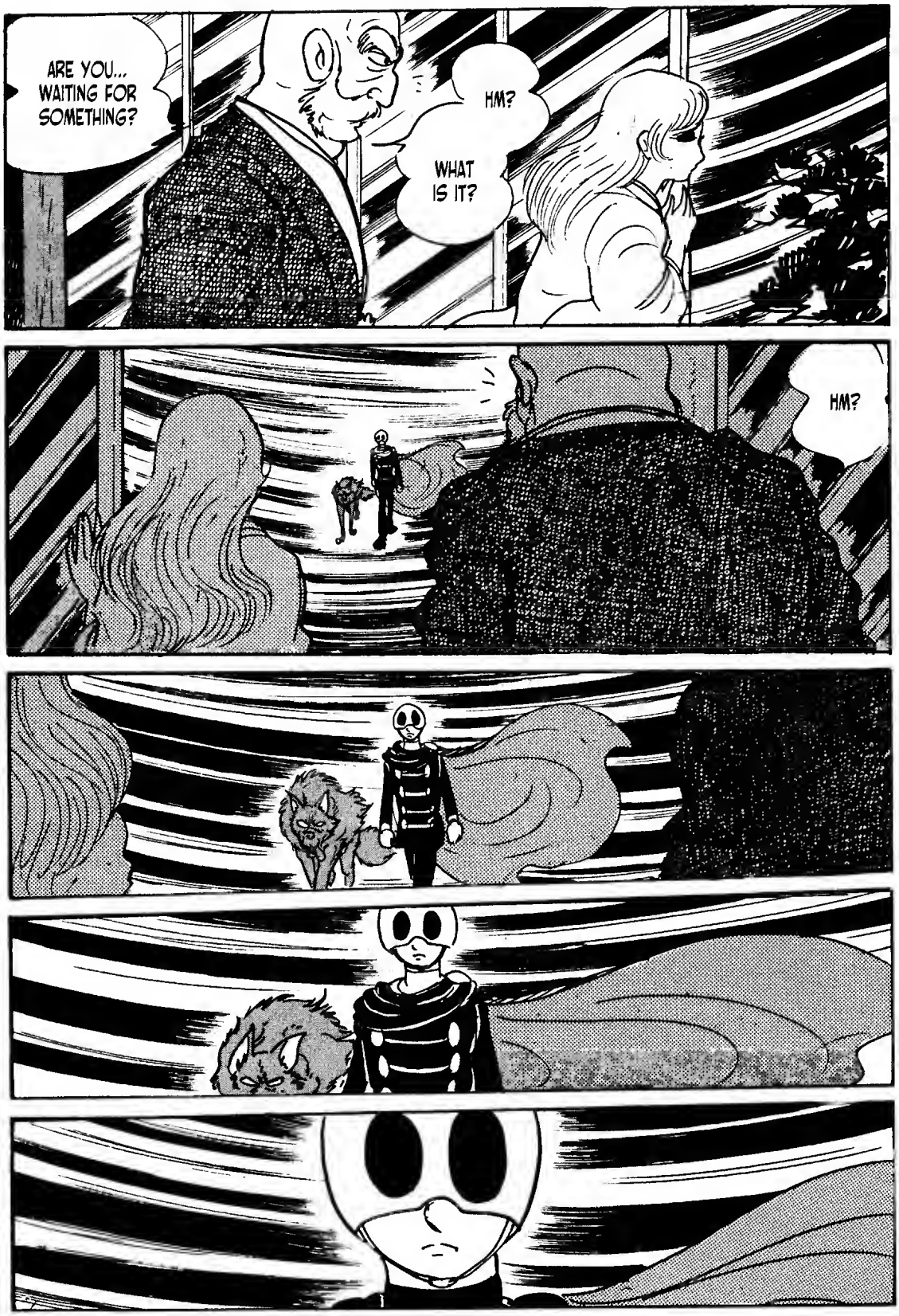
GIVE ME THE NAME ...
...OF THE PERSON WHO MURDERED MY PARENTS... AND TRIED TO HAVE ME KILLED!!
THE ONE WHO TRIED TO KILL ME... HIS NAME!
I ALREADY KNOW HE'S A BIG FISH... HE OWNS CORPORATIONS ALL OVER JAPAN... HE PULLS THE STRINGS OF THE FINANCIAL AND POLITICAL WORLDS!!
BUT I DON'T HAVE THE MOST VITAL INFORMATION OF ALL...HIS NAME AND WHEREABOUTS!
NOW TELL ME!
WHO'S THE MAN BEHIND THE SCENES?!
CHISATO ...
HIS NAME...IS CHISATO ...

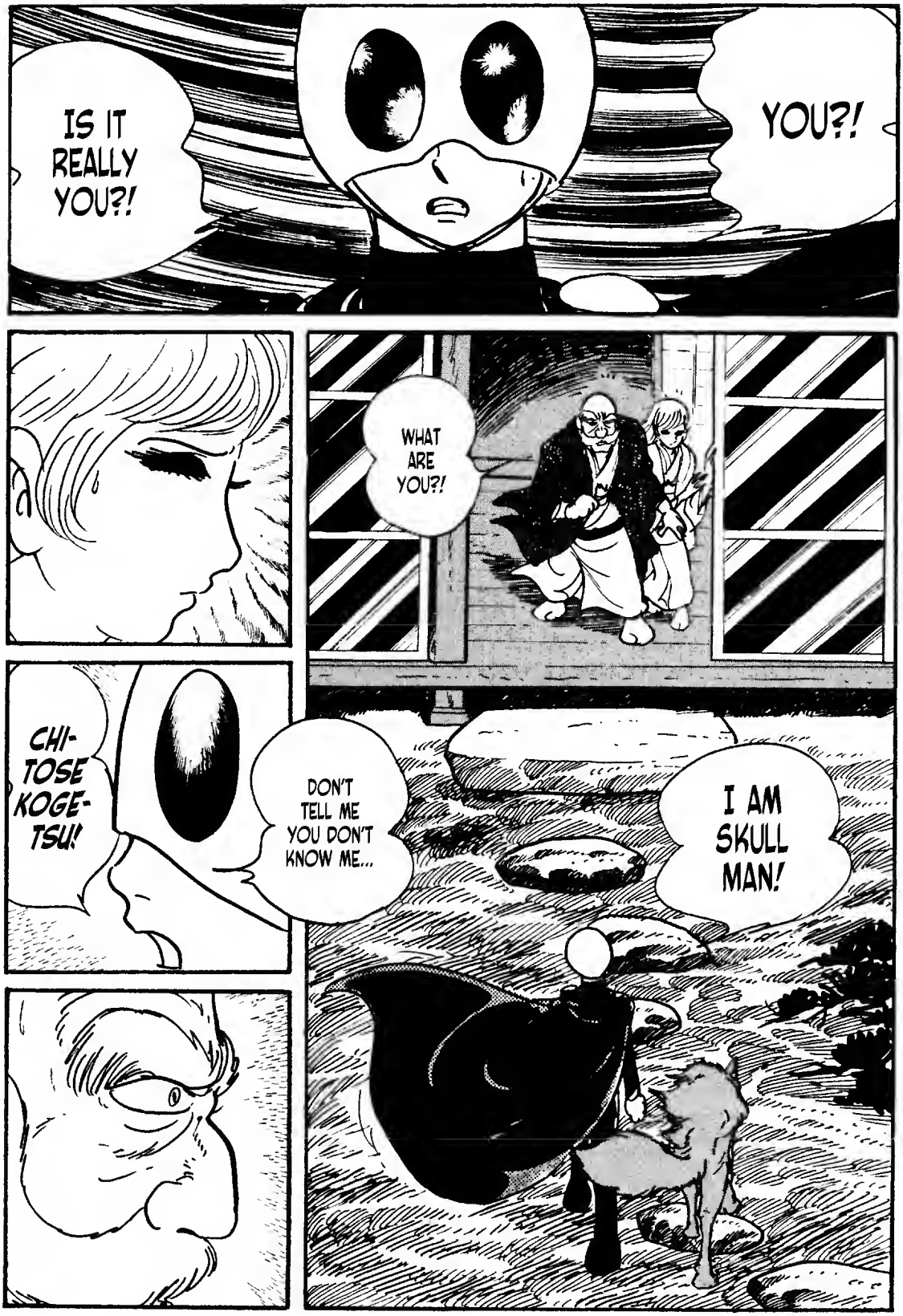
I FINALLY KNOW WHO IT IS!
I... I GOT IT!
GARO !!
ZAAT
UGH!
BLAM!
WSSSH
ZAAA
WSSH
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
WAAH
WAAH
WAAH
WAAH

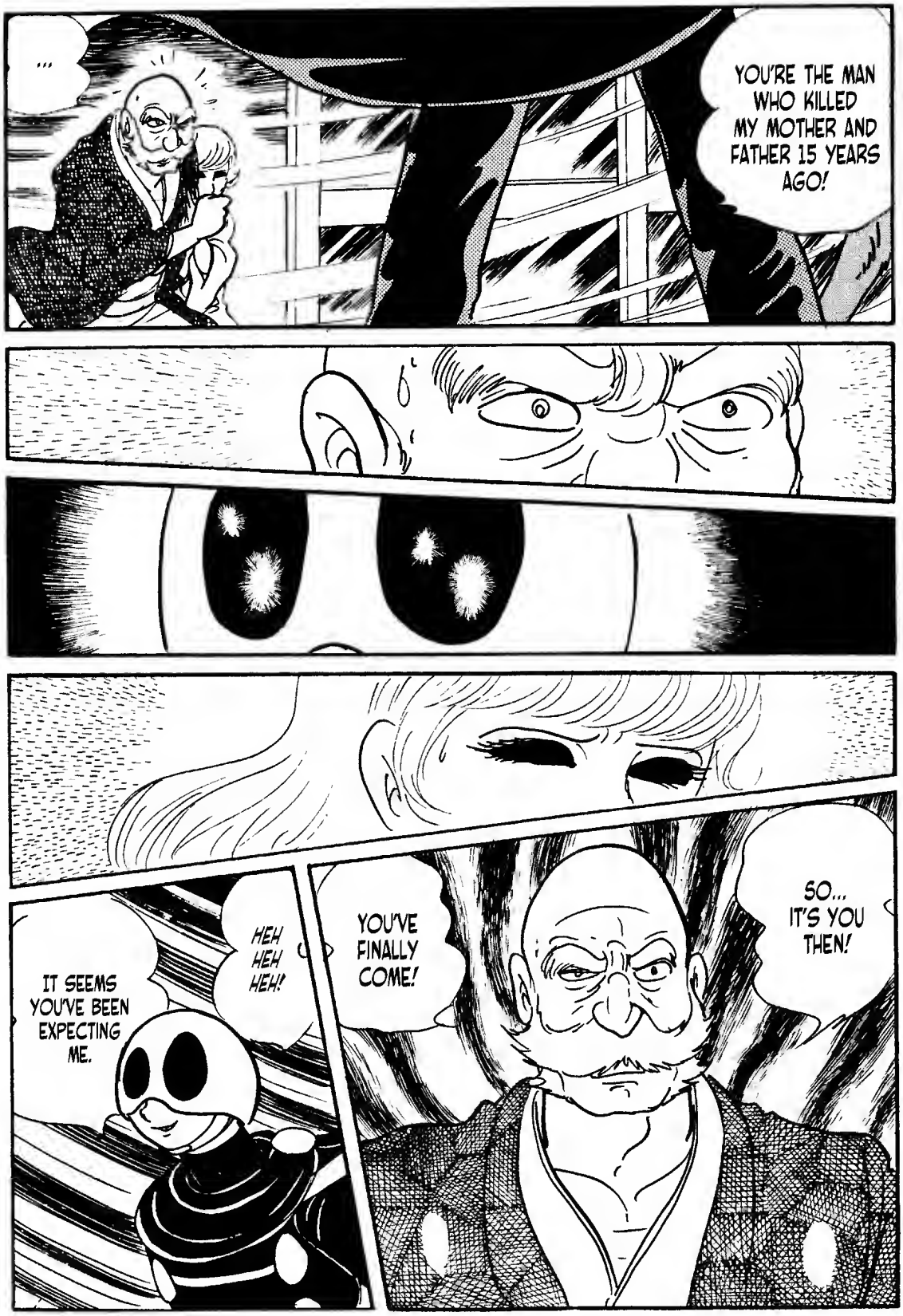


On sign: Chitose Kogetsu

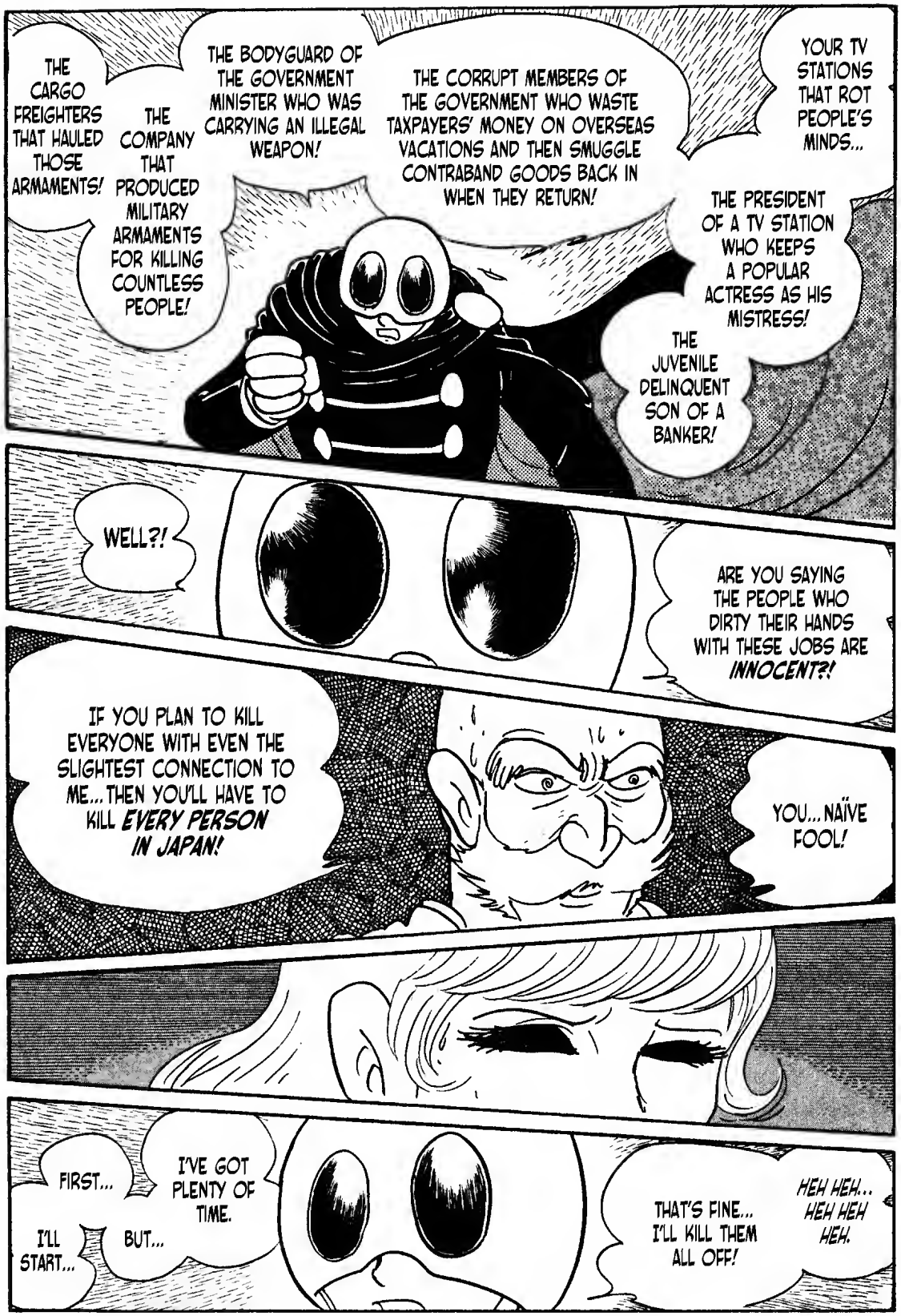
WSSSH
MAYA...
WHAT'S WRONG? WHY ARE YOU OPENING THE DOOR?
THE WIND...
AREN'T YOU COLD?
WSSH

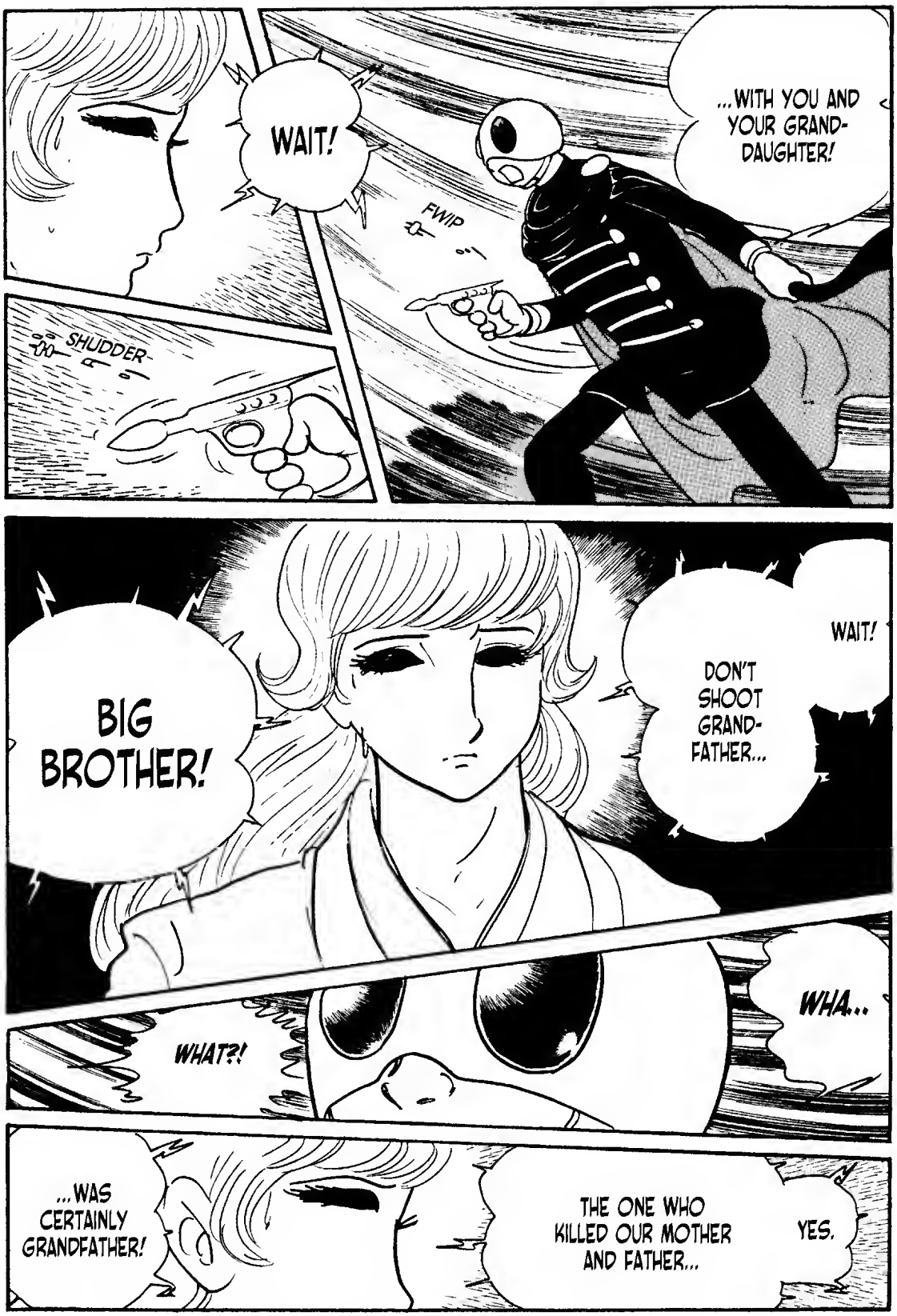

ARE YOU... WAITING FOR SOMETHING?
HM?
WHAT IS IT?
HM?


IS IT REALLY YOU?!
YOU?!
WHAT ARE YOU?!
CHI-TOSE KOGE-TSU!
DON'T TELL ME YOU DON'T KNOW ME...
I AM SKULL MAN!

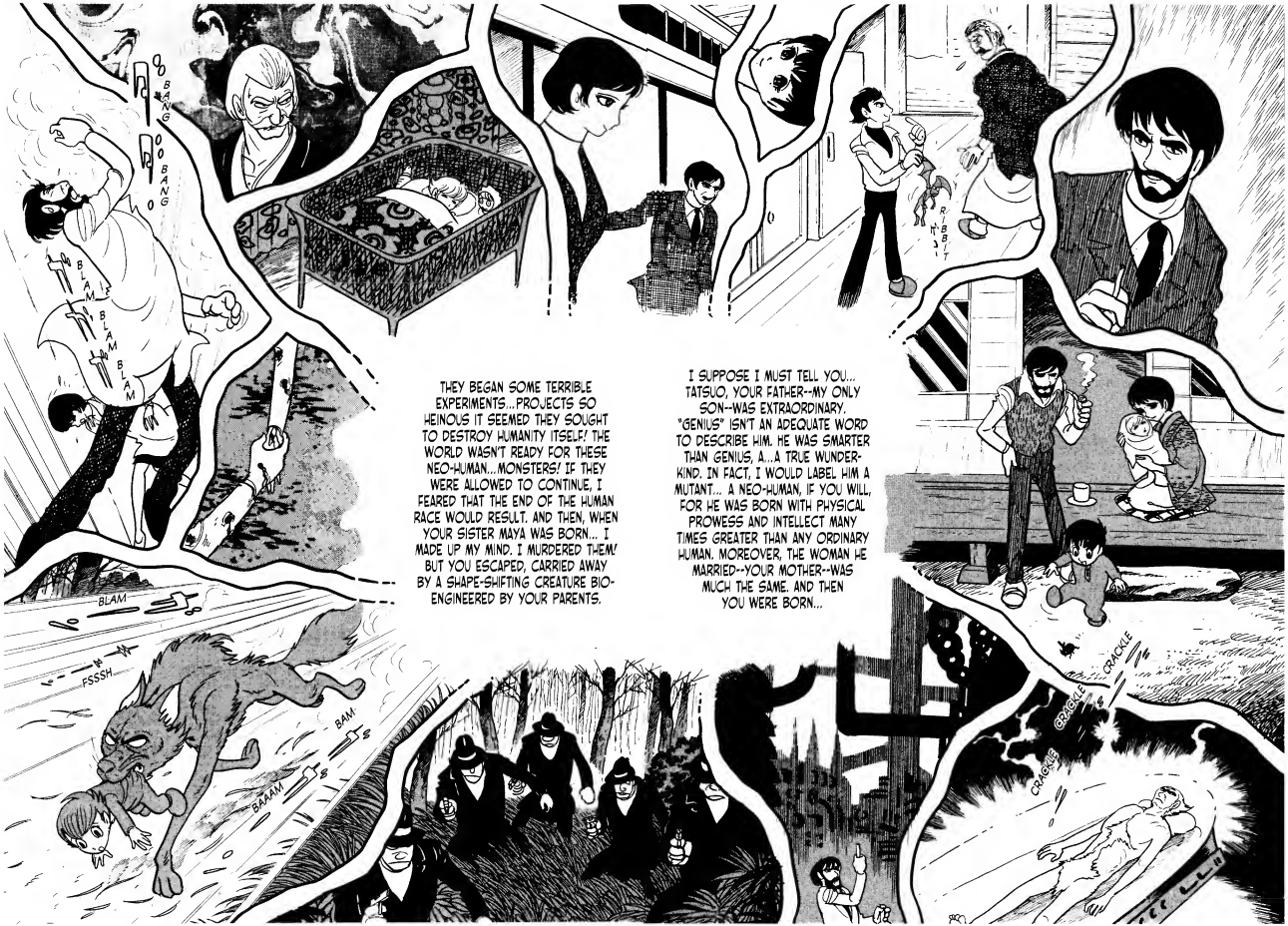

...
YOU'RE THE MAN WHO KILLED MY MOTHER AND FATHER 15 YEARS AGO!
SO... IT'S YOU THEN!
YOU'VE FINALLY COME!
HEH HEH HEH!
IT SEEMS YOU'VE BEEN EXPECTING ME.

WELL, THAT'S ONLY NATURAL!
FOR THE PAST TWO OR THREE YEARS, I'VE MADE A BLOOD-BATH OUT OF THE PEOPLE CONNECTED TO YOU!
ALL JUST TO STRIKE TERROR IN YOUR HEART!
YOU MONSTER!
THOSE INNOCENT PEOPLE...
INNOCENT ?!
MONSTER ?!
HA!
IF I'M A MONSTER, THEN WHAT ARE YOU?!
GODZILLA ?!
AND THOSE PEOPLE WERE INNOCENT?!
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH! THEIR LABOR KEPT YOU RICH AND POWERFUL!!
YOU HIDE IN THE SHADOWS AND CONTROL THE WORLD... POLITICAL PARTIES, BANKERS, CORPORATIONS, EVEN RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS...
DO YOU DARE DENY IT?!
YOU MANIPULATE TV STATIONS, NEWSPAPERS, THE POLICE, RAILROADS.
AND YOUR PEOPLE BENEFITTED FROM THAT, TOO! THEY GREW FAT ON YOUR CROOKED LARGESSE!!


THE CARGO FREIGHTERS THAT HAULED THOSE ARMAMENTS!
THE COMPANY THAT PRODUCED MILITARY ARMAMENTS FOR KILLING COUNTLESS PEOPLE!
THE BODYGUARD OF THE GOVERNMENT MINISTER WHO WAS CARRYING AN ILLEGAL WEAPON!
THE CORRUPT MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT WHO WASTE TAXPAYERS' MONEY ON OVERSEAS VACATIONS AND THEN SMUGGLE CONTRABAND GOODS BACK IN WHEN THEY RETURN!
YOUR TV STATIONS THAT ROT PEOPLE'S MINDS...
THE PRESIDENT OF A TV STATION WHO KEEPS A POPULAR ACTRESS AS HIS MISTRESS!
THE JUVENILE DELINQUENT SON OF A BANKER!
WELL?!
ARE YOU SAYING THE PEOPLE WHO DIRTY THEIR HANDS WITH THESE JOBS ARE *INNOCENT?!*
IF YOU PLAN TO KILL EVERYONE WITH EVEN THE SLIGHTEST CONNECTION TO ME... THEN YOU'LL HAVE TO KILL *EVERY PERSON IN JAPAN!*
YOU... NAÏVE FOOL!
FIRST... I'LL START...
I'VE GOT PLENTY OF TIME. BUT...
THAT'S FINE... I'LL KILL THEM ALL OFF!
HEH HEH... HEH HEH HEH.

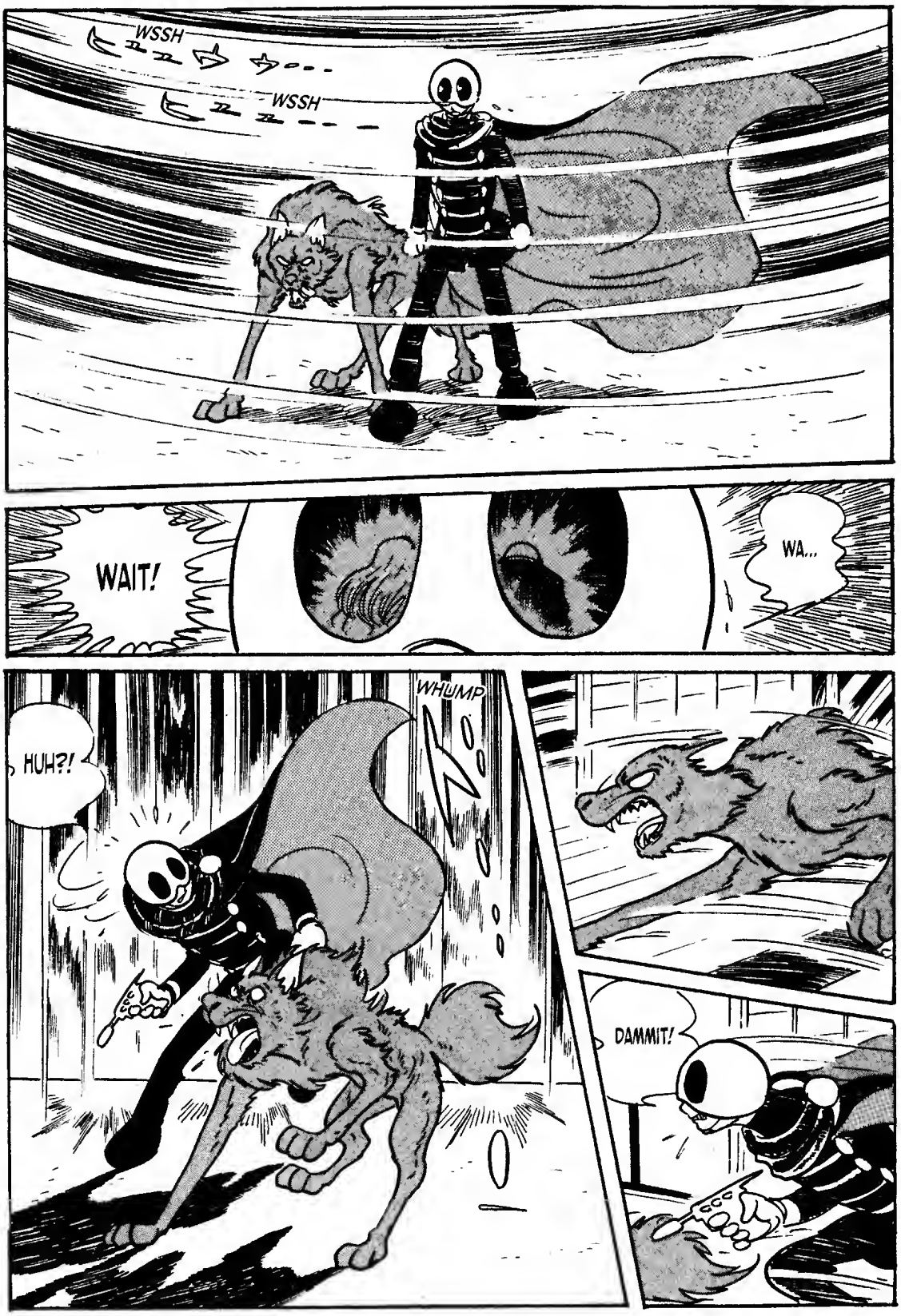

WAIT!
...WITH YOU AND YOUR GRAND-DAUGHTER!
FWIP
SHUDDER
BIG BROTHER!
WAIT!
DON'T SHOOT GRAND-FATHER...
WHA...
WHAT?!
...WAS CERTAINLY GRANDFATHER!
THE ONE WHO KILLED OUR MOTHER AND FATHER...
YES.

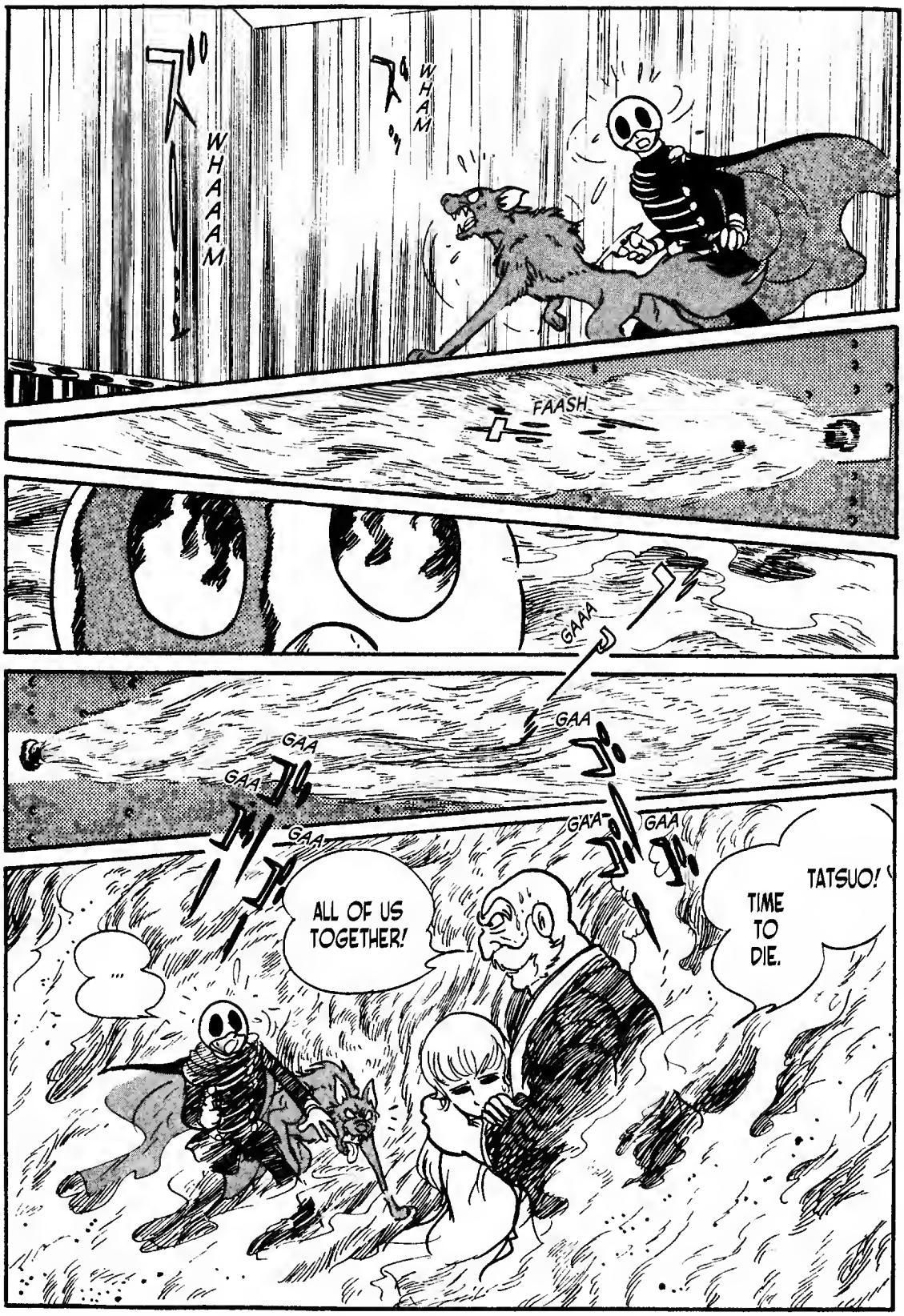
DON'T SHOOT...
THERE WAS A REASON FOR IT!
BUT...
NO... NO!
THAT CAN'T BE!
YOU SAY WE'RE SIBLINGS?!
THEN... THAT MEANS HE'S...
IT CAN'T BE!
AHA!
I--I SEE. MAYA... "TALKED," DID SHE?


BANG
BANG
BANG
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
FSSSH...
BAM
BAAAM
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
THEY BEGAN SOME TERRIBLE EXPERIMENTS...PROJECTS SO HEINOUS IT SEEMED THEY SOUGHT TO DESTROY HUMANITY ITSELF! THE WORLD WASN'T READY FOR THESE NEO-HUMAN...MONSTERS! IF THEY WERE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE, I FEARED THAT THE END OF THE HUMAN RACE WOULD RESULT. AND THEN, WHEN YOUR SISTER MAYA WAS BORN... I MADE UP MY MIND. I MURDERED THEM! BUT YOU ESCAPED, CARRIED AWAY BY A SHAPE-SHIFTING CREATURE BIO-ENGINEERED BY YOUR PARENTS.
I SUPPOSE I MUST TELL YOU... TATSUO, YOUR FATHER--MY ONLY SON--WAS EXTRAORDINARY. "GENIUS" ISN'T AN ADEQUATE WORD TO DESCRIBE HIM. HE WAS SMARTER THAN GENIUS, A...A TRUE WUNDER-KIND. IN FACT, I WOULD LABEL HIM A MUTANT... A NEO-HUMAN, IF YOU WILL, FOR HE WAS BORN WITH PHYSICAL PROWESS AND INTELLECT MANY TIMES GREATER THAN ANY ORDINARY HUMAN. MOREOVER, THE WOMAN HE MARRIED--YOUR MOTHER--WAS MUCH THE SAME. AND THEN YOU WERE BORN...

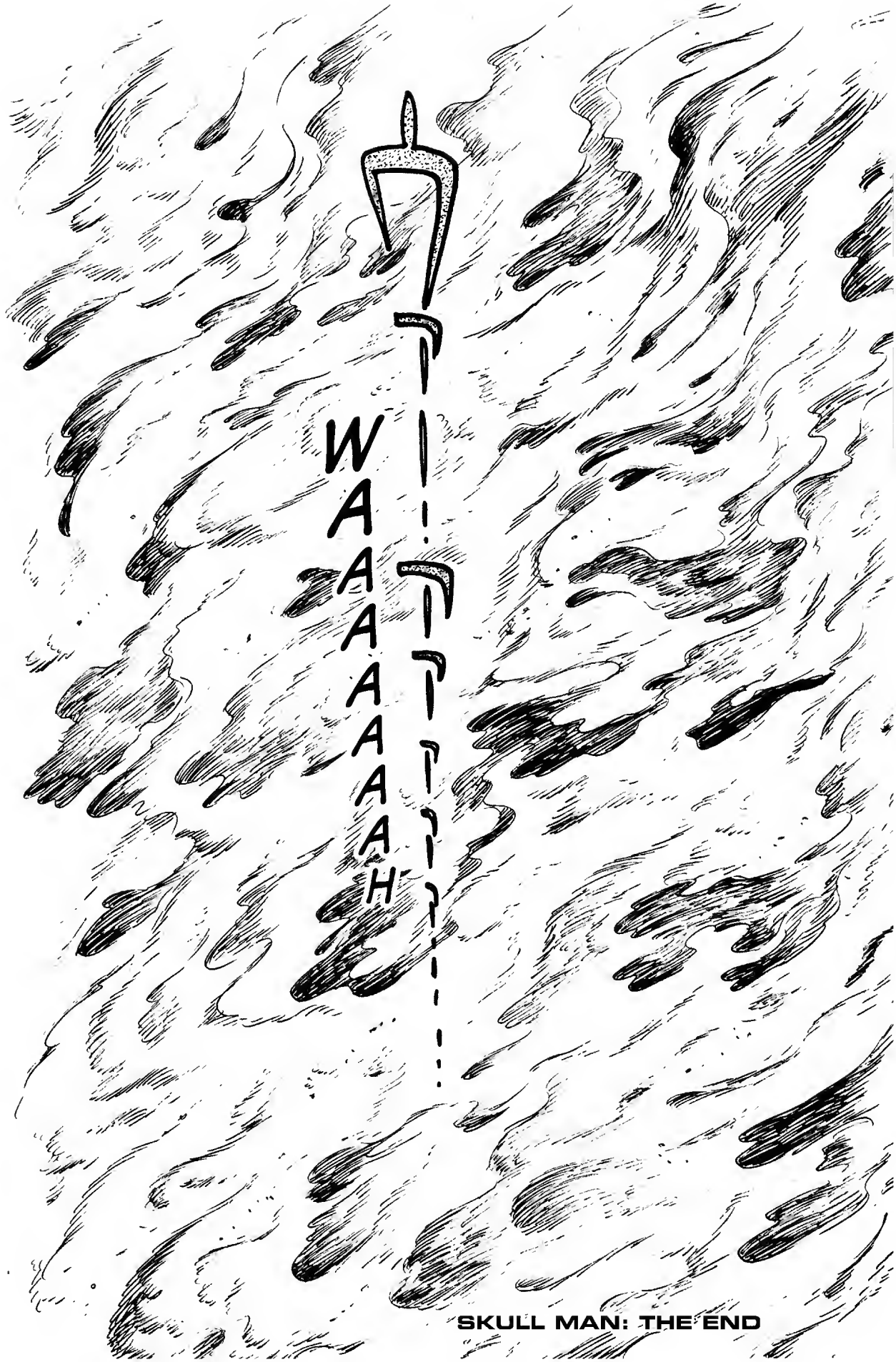
YES...
AND I'M THE CHILD OF SUCH MONSTERS?!
THE... THE MAN WHO KILLED MY PARENTS... IS MY OWN GRANDFATHER?!

OR EVEN YOU, BROTHER...
BUT GRANDFATHER COULDN'T BRING HIMSELF TO KILL ME!
YES, IT'S TRUE, BROTHER.
HE SEARCHED FOR YOU FOR A LONG TIME... HE WANTED TO BRING YOU HOME BEFORE YOU DID SOMETHING...BAD...
COME, MAYA.
COME!
BROTHER!


WSSH
WSSH
WAIT!
WA...
WHUMP
HUH?!
DAMMIT!


WHAAAM
WHAM
FAASH
GAAA
GAA
GAA
GAA
GAA
GA'A
GAA
ALL OF US TOGETHER!
...
TIME TO DIE.
TATSUO!

GAA
GAA
GAA
GAA
WE WERE BORN IN THE WRONG ERA!



SKULL MAN: THE END